



1898.
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QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL ON AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL STATISTICS FOR 1897.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward for your information the usual Report on the Statistics relating to the Agricultural and Pastoral Industries for the year 1897. With respect to the former, the season has been, taken altogether, a satisfactory one. The past year witnessed a large addition to the area brought under the plough, the increased acreage under wheat materially contributing to this result. More sugar-cane was planted and more hay housed, and the fruit production was also greater. The pastoral industry was less fortunate, the experience of 1897 not being a favourable one with respect to live stock, the loss of cattle being greater than for some years past, whilst, with the exception of 1893, the same remark equally applies to sheep.

COLLECTION OF STATISTICS.

The live stock statistics, and also those relating to agriculture, are now collected under statutory authority. The former are obtained through clerks of petty sessions, to whom returns of all live stock have to be made annually by their owners, and the latter are collected by the police by personal application. The method fixed by law for the collection of live stock statistics cannot be considered to work satisfactorily, as the public appear slow to realise that these returns have to be made spontaneously by them every year, and altogether independent of the fact whether any assessment is to be levied under any of the various Acts connected with live stock or not—and are given to conclude that when no assessment is to be levied no return need be made. Most of the clerks of petty sessions it is true endeavour to remove this impression and use every effort to carry out the provisions of the Act, but some either have not the time or the inclination to do so in a prompt and energetic spirit, and the consequence is that, not unfrequently, applications are made to the Statistical Office for “instructions” to give effect to the penal clauses of the Stock Returns Act at a period of the year when the printed list should be in the hands of the officers of the Rabbit and Marsupial Boards. This occurs, notwithstanding the fact that special instructions have been issued from the Home Secretary’s office to clerks of petty sessions to give, at their own discretion, full effect to the law at a much earlier period of the year. The returns are required to be made before the 1st February in each and every year, and clerks of petty sessions are instructed to send them on to this office twice every month; but the extraction from some 36,000 forms necessarily takes some time to accomplish, and then an alphabetical list by districts has to be compiled and printed of about 20,000 of these. These lists form the basis of the electoral rolls and assessments of Marsupial and Rabbit Boards throughout the colony, and should be supplied to clerks of Rabbit Boards not later than the first day of April. As the offices of some of the boards are about fourteen days post distant from Brisbane it is manifestly impossible that this requirement could be complied with, even were all the stock returns duly made to the clerk of petty sessions before the 31st January, according to law, whereas they frequently do not reach them until the month of May.

The agricultural statistics are collected on special schedules on the personal application of an officer of police, and much less difficulty is for the most part experienced in punctually obtaining the requisite information, although the returns are of necessity of a much more intricate nature.

NUMBER OF LIVE STOCK.

Reference has already been made to the important decreases in cattle and sheep which have resulted during last year. There was a substantial increase in the number of horses, and a considerable addition to the number of pigs in the colony, but these most inadequately compensate for the decline in numbers of the more valuable classes of live stock.

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The number of live stock of all kinds in the colony at the end of the past two years, together with the increase and decrease, is shown in the following table:—

A.

Year.					Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1896	...	...	...	...	452,207	6,507,377	19,593,696	97,434
1897	...	...	...	...	479,280	6,089,013	17,797,883	110,855
Numerical Increase in 1897					27,073	...	...	13,421
Numerical Decrease in 1897					...	418,364	1,795,813	...
Centesimal Increase in 1897					5.99	...	...	13.77
Centesimal Decrease in 1897					...	6.43	9.17	...

The proportional increase in horses and pigs amounted to 6 per cent. and 14 per cent. respectively, whilst the relative decreases in cattle and sheep were $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $9\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The supply of horses is fully adequate to the requirements of the colony, and the prospects of disposal in foreign markets can hardly be considered encouraging, so that their increase or decrease is not a matter of great moment. The exports, however, exceeded the imports by 4,054, so that there increase for 1897 is accentuated to that extent. The number exported by sea was 358 only, of which 307 were shipped to India. Pigs, on the other hand, would appear to offer a larger room for profit, and a substantial increase in their number is of greater importance. The 110,855 pigs found in the colony at the end of 1897 has only been exceeded on two occasions—namely, in 1891 and 1892, when the numbers were 122,672 and 116,930 respectively.

At the end of 1897 there were 6,089,013 cattle in the colony, which was 418,364 fewer than at the end of 1896. This decrease considerably exceeded the total number of cattle in each of three of the other colonies. In 1896 the number of cattle in Queensland exceeded the aggregate number of the other six colonies of the Australasian group. The loss recorded was due to excessively dry weather throughout the south-westerly and westerly portions of the colony, the actual mortality from tick fever in the more easterly districts not having proved nearly so severe as that resulting from drought in the dry regions of the colony. The loss in sheep was both actually and relatively greater than that of cattle. At the end of 1896 the sheep numbered 19,593,696, and at the end of 1897 17,797,883; or a decrease of 1,795,813 during the year. The centesimal proportion of increase or decrease amongst all kinds of live stock for each of the last ten years is given in the following table:—

B.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1888	6.04	4.05	4.01	— 6.34
1889	8.61	4.67	7.64	17.01
1890	3.82	14.08	24.44	19.95
1891	9.20	11.42	12.67	26.67
1892	5.86	6.44	6.99	— 4.68
1893	1.65	1.54	— 13.87	— 41.77
1894	3.35	4.78	4.76	31.71
1895	5.55	— 2.72	1.37	12.34
1896	— 3.53	— 4.63	— 1.33	— 3.29
1897	5.99	— 6.43	— 9.17	13.77

— Decrease.

On one occasion only during the past ten years has there been a decrease in the number of horses. For the whole period the actual increase has amounted to 173,415, that is from 305,865 in 1887 to 479,280 in 1897; which gives a proportionate increase of 57 per cent. The first seven years of the decade witnessed an increase in the number of cattle for each year, but for the last three decreases have been annually recorded. During two years 1890 and 1891 the increases amounted to 14 and 11 per cent. respectively. There were 1,615,297 more cattle in the colony at the end than at the beginning of the decennium, notwithstanding the large numbers which during that period have been put to profit. So that it will be seen that whilst individual seasons may prove unfortunate, the general expansion of the pastoral industry has been most satisfactory. The loss of sheep recorded during the last two seasons bears a more serious aspect. With cattle, so long as the supply is equal to satisfying the demands of all available markets, any losses, serious as of course they are to the individual owner, are of less moment from a national standpoint, as being incapable of producing an annual increment, the surplus being worth the value of the hide and tallow only, whilst any loss in sheep at once affects the output of one of the great staple productions of the colony.

As with cattle, during the last ten years sheep have shown on seven occasions increases and on three decreases. The latter took place in 1893, 1896, and 1897, the one in the first-named year proving relatively the largest, amounting to 14 per cent. on the figures of the previous year. The years 1890 and 1891, which were such satisfactory ones for cattle, were equally favourable for sheep, the proportionate increases in those years being 24 and 13 per cent. respectively. The figures relating to pigs show that the number of these fluctuates considerably. The records for ten years show centesimal variations going into double figures on no less than seven occasions.

DISTRIBUTION OF STOCK.

The conditions of the pastoral industry of Queensland have of necessity resulted in great variations from year to year in the number of stock in specific localities, irrespective of the increase or decrease which may have taken place with respect to the total numbers in the colony. Even when the seasons are favourable, the movements with respect to the marketing of fats, of the transfer of stores to more

suitable districts for fattening, and the changes of policy with regard to station management respecting the kind of stock depastured would always be productive of great fluctuations. In dry seasons, however, the conditions are intensified by the necessity of travelling live stock from pasture to pasture to save them from starvation, added to the fact that stock routes are provided for and protected by legislation, and, being usually laid out along a course at least moderately well watered, are frequently better grassed in dry seasons than some of the less favourably situated runs. These circumstances more particularly apply on comparing the number found within limited areas, such as individual petty sessions districts, whilst increases or decreases found in larger areas may be more safely attributed to climatic variations.

The figures contained in the following table relate to the number of live stock found in each of the three great divisions of the colony at the end of the past two years :—

C.

Division.	Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
SOUTHERN	1896	220,528	2,565,491	8,452,572	80,438
	1897	228,512	2,405,099	7,559,023	87,810
	Numerical Increase in 1897	7,984	...	...	7,372
	Numerical Decrease in 1897	...	160,392	893,549	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1897	3.62	...	10.57	9.16
	Centesimal Decrease in 1897	...	6.25	...	...
CENTRAL	1896	125,426	1,991,769	9,434,826	8,117
	1897	132,155	1,801,858	8,454,194	9,609
	Numerical Increase in 1897	6,729	...	...	1,492
	Numerical Decrease in 1897	...	189,911	980,632	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1897	5.36	...	10.39	18.38
	Centesimal Decrease in 1897	...	9.53	...	...
NORTHERN	1896	106,253	1,950,117	1,706,298	8,879
	1897	118,613	1,882,056	1,784,666	13,436
	Numerical Increase in 1897	12,360	...	78,368	4,557
	Numerical Decrease in 1897	...	68,061	...	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1897	11.63	...	4.59	51.32
	Centesimal Decrease in 1897	...	3.49	...	...

The heaviest decrease in cattle was found in the Central division, where it amounted to a little less than 10 per cent. on the figures of the previous year; whilst that in the Northern division amounted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. only, the Southern division coming half-way between the two, with a ratio of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Although in the last-mentioned portion of the colony the effects of the bad seasons were, with respect to cattle, less severely felt than in the Central division, such was not the case in connection with sheep, for, in the South, this class of live stock appears to have suffered to fully as great an extent as in any part of the colony. The North was much more fortunate, as, instead of a loss, there was a small increase amounting to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; whilst in the other two divisions there was a loss exceeding 10 per cent.

On passing to a consideration of the increases and decreases in each district, the fact that some of these are due to transfers, as already pointed out, must not be lost sight of.

Full particulars as to the number of cattle and sheep in each district of the colony for the past two years, with the increase or decrease in 1897, are given in Tables Nos. 2 to 4 in the Appendix.

In the Southern division increases resulted in 32 districts, and aggregated 67,268. Of these, accessions exceeding 5,000 were found in—Goondiwindi, 8,892; Beaudesert, 7,553; Gympie, 6,842; and Gayndah, 5076. The number of districts with decreases was 26, but the sum of the decline totalled to 227,660, leaving a net decrease for the whole division of 160,392. Decreases exceeding 20,000 occurred in the following districts:—Windorah (southern half), 41,265; St. George, 34,254; Mitchell, 32,390; and Charleville, 26,152. In the following districts the decline on the figures of the previous year amounted to upwards of 10,000—namely, in Taroom, Surat, Roma, and Thargomindah. In sheep 26 districts showed increases and 31 decreases. Of the former, 5 only exceeded 10,000:—Dalby, 181,164; Warwick, 50,831; Goondiwindi, 42,040; Taroom, 12,908; Condamine, 11,576. The increase in Dalby was largely due to a large holding, wrongly included in Toowoomba in 1896, being now transferred to its proper district, although it was in part caused by large flocks of travelling stock. Of the decreases those exceeding 100,000 were found in the following districts:—St. George, 299,558; Augathella, 193,333; Charleville, 166,042; and Tambo, 152,066.

In the Central division the aggregate increases of cattle amounted to but little more than one-tenth of the aggregate decreases. The chief of the former were Mount Morgan, 10,067; and Clermont, 7,013; and of the latter, Boulia, 61,534; Windorah (northern half), 41,265; Springsure, 39,474; Mackay (part of), 16,223; and Banana, 11,641. The decreases in sheep aggregated to more than ten times the increases, and the net decrease amounted to 980,632. The principal increases were: Boulia, 50,626; Rockhampton, 14,504; and Aramac, 13,380; and the decreases: Winton, 242,843; Longreach, 241,183; Isisford, 216,479; Barcaldine, 142,747; and Blackall, 109,554. Passing to a consideration of the Northern division, the aggregate gross increases of cattle approached much nearer to the aggregate of the decreases, whilst, as already pointed out, there was a small net increase in sheep. The principal excesses of cattle were—Cloncurry, 51,763; and Burke, 48,808; the chief deficiencies being: Bowen, 64,829; Norman, 34,535; and Etheridge, 32,466. The more important increases in sheep were—Hughenden, 54,649; and Cloncurry, 28,411. The decreases were insignificant.

CAUSES OF LOSSES.

The heavy losses obtaining amongst the flocks and herds of the colony during 1897 were due to drought and redwater, the latter consequent on the fever which is caused by the peculiar tick *Ixodes Bovis*, which, although of foreign origin, has now become established—at least for a time—in the colony. Rabbits, moreover, although perhaps not productive of direct loss, are having an influence on the stocking capacities of the runs in the Western portion of the colony. Other plagues which sometimes affect the occupants of the pastures of the colony were fortunately but little in evidence last year.

The most fruitful source of last year's decrease of live stock was undoubtedly the dry weather. Felt to some extent throughout the whole colony, in some portions of the Western areas it was very severe. The Northern division suffered only slightly, but even the coastal districts elsewhere received only a very limited rainfall, the crops suffering in consequence, although in the well-settled districts no great amount of mortality amongst cattle now takes place unless the drought is exceptionally severe. Throughout the North and South Gregory, Warrego, Maranoa, and Mitchell very dry weather was experienced in 1897, whilst the season was not much more favourable in South Kennedy, Leichhardt, and on parts of the Darling Downs.

Ticks have attracted much more notice than the drought, although the results of a visitation from this pest are not so disastrous. Starting in the Gulf country some years ago, from thence spreading to the east coast, and from there southerly, they have now progressed as far south as Bundaberg, and the advance guard has reached even to Brisbane. An insect which in its embryo state is very minute, and apparently open to conveyance by wild birds, and capable of carriage in the *débris* of flooded rivers, is not likely to be stopped by any barrier short of an ocean, unless the climatic conditions of a country are inimical to its existence. It has been traced at times in many parts of the world, much of Southern Europe having been visited, so that the seaboard districts of Australia are hardly likely to be exempt. The hot, dry sands of the interior would fortunately appear to prove too severe for the tick, and it has been asserted that they are unable to live in such soil when the temperature reaches 100 degrees Fahrenheit, whilst dense vegetation in moister localities is most favourable to their extension. It is certain that they have not spread into parts of Queensland where the former conditions obtain. The pastoral districts of North and South Gregory, Warrego, and Maranoa being country of this description, are exempt from their encroachment, whilst South Kennedy, Leichhardt, Port Curtis, and Mitchell are only partially affected, and in the Burke district they have not extended south of Barclay's Tableland. It does not appear probable that any system of quarantine, no matter how strict, can possibly prevent their advance, and, naturally, widely differing views are held as to the nature and extent of the quarantine which it is advisable to establish. There is no doubt, however, that the efforts adopted have materially delayed their progress, thus affording time for experiment as to various preventive measures. Dipping, at one time believed in, is no longer in use to any extent, although reports from St. Lawrence and Mackay tend to show that some benefit has resulted from its adoption. Inoculation has now been proved fairly effective as a means of prevention against any great mortality from attacks of tick fever. The fact that the virulent effects that follow the first presence of ticks on a previously clean pasture are not experienced to anything like the same extent after they have been for some time established in a locality, would confirm the idea that, practically, immunity from attack is after a time acquired by a herd.

The results of a number of experiments made by Mr. Pound and Dr. Hunt serve to justify the conclusion that a like immunity may be artificially secured for a beast by inoculation with a hypodermic injection of the blood of a recovered animal. The blood may be taken from one surviving an acute attack of tick fever, whether the same was naturally or artificially acquired. One authority inclines to the idea that the use of the blood of a beast recovered from a naturally acquired attack would be likely to secure greater immunity, but would involve greater risk in the operation, and might therefore, with advantage, in the case of valuable animals, be preceded by an induced attack of fever from the recovered blood of an artificially produced case, so as to make the attack more gradual and less virulent. It has now been fully demonstrated that the chances of mortality from attacks of fever are greatly enhanced by the moving or disturbing of the suffering animal, so that if stock are attacked when travelling unless at once let alone and allowed to rest, the fatality will be largely increased. The chance of success with inoculation is greatly improved by the exercise of care, not only in the operation, by regulating the quantity and the purity of the recovered blood to be used, but also in the subsequent treatment of the animals, who should be left quiet in paddocks well grassed and watered, and provided with shade. The immunity brought about by the process of nature has resulted in securing, to a very large extent, against fatal attacks those portions of the colony where the ticks first appeared. In the Burke district—and the same is true in a lesser degree over an increasing area in the Northern division—although the ticks still infest the pastures, the mortality caused by them amongst cattle is very slight, and is there frequently induced by some untoward circumstance, such as exhaustion from over travelling or being hurriedly driven.

The dry weather experienced in the West for several seasons past has had one good result: the spread of the rabbit pest has been much retarded. The vigorous measures which at length were taken in causing the erection of rabbit-proof wire fences along the southern boundary of the colony have also been instrumental in keeping the rabbit in check. It has proved quite impossible to keep these animals back by any one fence, so the policy has been adopted of erecting a number of interior cross fences, thus dividing the South-western portion of the colony into what may be described as a number of huge paddocks, wherein a variety of measures are put in force for their destruction. Although there would appear to be a large difference of opinion as to the efficacy of inoculation with chicken cholera to eradicate the rabbits, the weight of evidence would seem to point to the fact that, where carefully and systematically carried out, a considerable mortality occurs, and one rabbit board is so satisfied with the results following efforts made by them on a small scale, that they are now taking steps to extend their operations, and are procuring a large supply of chicken cholera cultivation for the purpose.

If no consideration were given to the increases which under normal conditions accrue to the flocks and herds of the colony, then the large numbers of both cattle and sheep which have been utilised during 1897 would more than counterbalance the decrease in the actual numbers found at the end of the year, and with respect to cattle, even allowing for the usual average increase, the number converted to use to a slight extent discounts the loss, as shown by the difference between the figures for the two years.

This will be better illustrated by the following statement:—

Number in the colony at end of 1896	Cattle.	Sheep.
Add annual "cast" that should under ordinary conditions be available—say, 10 per cent. for cattle, and 15 per cent. for sheep ...	6,507,377	19,593,696
	650,738	2,939,055
Utilised during the year—	7,158,115	22,532,751
By excess of export over import	Cattle.	Sheep.
Killed mostly for export for food or as tallow	163,132	824,502
Killed for home consumption (estimated)	259,363	945,855
	239,220	956,880
Total utilised	661,715	2,727,237
Total in colony at end of 1897...	6,496,400	19,805,514
	6,089,013	17,797,883
Total deficit, taking normal increase into account	407,387	2,007,631

The normal increase or "cast" of cattle and sheep respectively is usually estimated at 10 per cent. for the former and 15 per cent. for the latter. This would bring the number which, under ordinary conditions, would have been found on the Queensland pastures at the end of 1897, or had been put to use during that year, to 7,000,000 cattle and 22,500,000 sheep. The numbers utilised were two-thirds of a million and two and three-quarter millions respectively, which makes a deficit, taking these various elements into consideration, of 400,000 cattle and 2,000,000 sheep.

The 661,715 cattle utilised were comprised of 163,132 exported from the colony alive in excess of the number imported; 259,363 slaughtered within the colony, chiefly for export, either in the form of frozen or preserved beef, extract, &c., or as tallow and hides; and 239,220 killed for consumption within the colony. The corresponding figures for sheep were—Excess of exports of live sheep, 824,502; exported in the carcass, preserved, or in the results obtained from boiling down, 945,855; and killed for food for use within the colony, 956,880.

The consumption of meat within the colony has been estimated upon the basis of half a bullock and two sheep per annum for each of the population. The approximate accuracy of an estimate framed on this basis is confirmed by the actual facts with respect to the meat consumption in some of the principal towns of the colony, as ascertained by returns received from the inspectors of slaughter-houses, full particulars of which will be found at Table No. 7 in the Appendix.

After making allowance for the varying conditions as to age, sex, occupation, and opportunities for obtaining other than meat food, which exist amongst the urban population represented, as compared with that of the rest of the colony, the figures fairly justify the basis which has been accepted for an estimate. This table relates to a population of 245,771, or 51 per cent. of the total mean population of the colony; but then it also largely consists of women and children, and of those also who are not such large consumers of meat as are the residents in rural districts. The average consumption of flesh amongst the urban population of the colony was 311 lb., of which 240 lb. consisted of beef, 60 lb. of mutton, and 11 lb. of veal, lamb, and pork, exclusive of poultry, fish, &c.

Great differences are to be found between various districts, not only as to the total consumption but also as to the relative proportions of beef and mutton. The differences as to the former are largely due to the varying areas under the control of slaughter-house inspectors, as with some the district is so restricted as to comprise urban and suburban populations only; whilst with others so wide an area is embraced that a considerable rural population has been catered for. Roma, with a *per capita* consumption of 574 lb., of which 453 lb. were beef and 109 mutton, was the heaviest, and Gympie, with only 203 lb. per head, was the smallest.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS LIVE STOCK.

The severity of the drought during the past year was sufficiently felt by both kinds of live stock, as not only to have a marked effect on the output of wool, but also to check the supply available for treatment at the various freezing and preserving establishments of the colony. Notwithstanding this the number of live stock exported, either dead or alive, during 1897 considerably exceeded the mean of the previous three years.

EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

Both horned cattle and sheep were exported in much greater numbers than they were imported. Whilst 13,197 cattle were introduced into the colony during 1897, there were 176,329 head sent out either by sea or across the border. With respect to sheep the differences between export and import were not relatively so great, but the numbers dealt with were so much larger that the outward traffic exceeded that into Queensland by 824,502.

The imports and exports of cattle and sheep for each of the past ten years are shown in the following table:—

D.

Year.	Horned Cattle.		Sheep.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
1888	1,111	188,748	234,167	248,804
1889	1,867	175,117	222,369	311,583
1890	3,684	494,944	386,625	472,282
1891	3,535	210,240	281,670	513,201
1892	6,923	130,989	463,323	421,318
1893	7,003	183,663	223,655	1,016,945
1894	2,286	135,858	156,596	430,646
1895	5,590	80,620	186,007	295,032
1896	10,127	272,622	94,620	899,720
1897	13,197	176,329	289,768	1,114,270

The number of cattle imported is very small, but still during the past two years it has been an increasing quantity, due to some extent to larger imports of stud cattle to replace those lost during the drought, the effects of which are always most severely felt by this class of stock. During the first five years of the decade 17,120, or an annual average of 3,424 head, were imported, whilst during the last quinquennium there were 38,203, or an annual average of 7,641. The exports of cattle, on the other hand, were more numerous during 1888-92 than during the later period, numbering 1,200,038, or an annual average of 240,008 during the former, and 849,092, or an annual average of 169,818, for the latter quinquennium. During the whole ten years the exports exceeded the imports by 1,993,807. Of sheep, whilst rather more than 250,000 passed into the colony last year; those outwards considerably exceeded 1,000,000. The imports for 1897 were larger than in any year since 1892, when they approximated 500,000. Unlike the case with cattle, the importation of sheep was greater during the first half of the decade than during the past five years. In the former period 1,588,154 sheep entered the colony, and only 950,646 during 1892-97. There were more sheep exported during 1897 than in any previous year of the last decade. In 1893 the number exceeded 1,000,000. The excess of exports over imports was 3,185,001; and of the 5,723,801 exported during the ten years, 1,967,188, or 34 per cent., left in the first half, and 3,756,613, or 66 per cent., in the second half of the ten-year period.

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED FOR EXPORT (CHIEFLY).

When some twelve years ago the possibilities of transporting meat in the carcass to the markets of Europe were demonstrated it seemed to offer a complete solution of the question, "What shall we do with our live stock?" The shipments of frozen meat have since then formed a most important element in the exports of the colony, but producers have found much to contend with. In the establishment of a new industry, or in the opening up of fresh markets, much experience has to be acquired, and is necessarily secured at the cost of many mistakes.

There is no doubt that many difficulties that were encountered were unavoidable. An objection largely sentimental, to frozen meat on the part of the consumer was one of the chief of these. Others were occasioned by the not unnatural opposition of the London meat salesmen, who, by combination for the purpose, have greatly retarded the introduction of colonial frozen meat avowedly as such to the consumer; dishonest retailers frequently selling meat, purchased at frozen prices, as British beef and mutton. The shippers here, however, have been at times to blame; their course of action in freezing and loading inferior meat have done much to justify the prejudice that undoubtedly exists against the colonial article. Irregularity as to quality has been much complained of, and inferior consignments tend to lower the reputation of all shipments from the same colony. One of the largest of the business firms in London connected with the frozen meat trade, in its annual report, speaks very strongly on this point, and makes the following recommendations:—"That there should be thorough and careful inspection at port of shipment, with summary power of rejection, not only for disease, which is now fully carried out, but also for inferior quality and appearance, also to see that the meat is properly frozen in accordance with the most improved methods; that the ships' chambers are in a proper condition as to temperature, &c., to receive the meat, and that proper provision be made for ascertaining and maintaining the requisite temperature throughout the voyage; and that differential rates of freight should be arranged for ships in accordance with their record as to the landed condition of previous cargoes; also that, provision be made in London and elsewhere for careful and proper storage, and a system of sorting and classifying consignments be adopted." It is satisfactory to note that the same firm announces that the demand for frozen meat has increased at a greater ratio than the supply.

The shipments of Australasian, especially Queensland, meat have been limited during the early months of the current year, and consequently the stocks of the colonies frozen meat in London are low; but this has failed to result in any appreciable rise in price, as shipments of both live stock and meat from elsewhere have increased. At the time of writing it would appear that a gentleman, a member of a firm in business in Brisbane, is taking steps to establish in London, on a large scale, a food supply company, to receive and distribute perishable food supplies for Great Britain. A gentleman largely connected with the meat extract trade, lecturing in London recently, expressed the opinion that there was a great future for Queensland extract, which was of exceptionally good quality. A new company for the production of extract is about to be formed in Rockhampton.

Full particulars as to the slaughter and preservation of meat at the various preserving, freezing, and boiling-down establishments of the colony during each of the past ten years will be found detailed at Table No. 5 in the Appendix.

There were 38 factories engaged last year in the conversion of live stock of all kinds into food products. This was 3 more than the number so occupied in 1896, though still 1 short of those returned in 1895. The number of hands employed—namely, 2,604—in 1897 was, however, 234 less than in 1896, and 244 less than were so employed in 1895. The number of cattle killed for preserving—62,342—was fewer than in either of the preceding years, but those killed for freezing were greatly in excess of the number ever before so treated. The numbers killed for export, chiefly in a frozen state, during each of the past 5 years, were:—1893, 39,828; 1894, 48,558; 1895, 80,487; 1896, 76,483; and 1897, 111,267. So that the number killed for freezing last year exceeded by nearly three times the number so returned in 1893. In connection with this question, one important point must be borne in mind—information is collected as to the quantity of meat preserved, frozen, or boiled down, and also as to the number of carcasses submitted to these three different modes of treatment. But the latter can be approximate only, as in many instances different portions of the same carcass may be subjected to each process, perhaps, for instance, the hindquarter frozen and parts of the forequarter preserved, and parts boiled down, either for extract or tallow. Thus it becomes impossible to exactly apportion the number of live stock to each process, and so considerable differences will be found as to the average weights, year by year, of stock returned under each head. There were not quite so many cattle boiled down as in either 1895 or 1896, the numbers for those years and for last year being 98,374, 87,562, and 85,754 respectively. There were 259,536 sheep killed for preserving, 70,865 for freezing, and 615,454 boiled down during 1897. These proportions must be again taken as approximate only, the apportionment being subject to the same disturbing influence already referred to in the remarks on cattle, although to

a lesser degree. The aggregate number of sheep slaughtered was greater last year than in 1896, the increase being amongst those boiled down, the number, both preserved and frozen, being less in the former than in the latter year. The decrease on the part of that frozen was a pronounced one.

There was a larger output of beef, both preserved and frozen, last year than ever before, the increase in the former being very great. The figures for the last two years were: 1896—preserved, 19,197,234 lb.; frozen, 50,245,213 lb.; 1897—preserved, 35,037,555 lb.; frozen, 62,764,267 lb. On the other hand, the amount of mutton preserved and frozen—namely, 1,970,959 lb. and 2,952,290 lb.—was much below the production for 1896; for, notwithstanding that there were more sheep killed in the former year, as already pointed out, the proportion of those boiled down in 1897 was greatly in excess of those so treated for 1896. The following statement summarises the output of the different slaughtering establishments in operation during the past five years, and also shows the production for the individual year 1897:—

				1897.	Five years, 1893-7.
Number of Cattle killed for—					
Preserving	...	...	...	62,342	366,489
Freezing	...	...	...	111,267	356,623
Boiling down	...	...	...	85,754	380,467
Total	...	...	...	259,363	1,103,579
Number of Sheep killed for—					
Preserving	...	...	...	259,536	1,451,820
Freezing	...	...	...	70,865	370,827
Boiling down	...	...	...	615,454	3,276,817
Total	...	...	...	945,855 Lb.	5,099,464 Lb.
Beef—					
Preserved	...	...	...	35,037,555	89,475,673
Frozen	...	...	...	62,764,267	224,801,960
Total	...	...	...	97,801,822	314,277,633
Mutton—					
Preserved	...	...	...	1,970,959	17,563,277
Frozen	...	...	...	2,952,290	16,188,131
Total	...	...	...	4,923,249	33,751,408

Thus upwards of 1,000,000 cattle and 5,000,000 sheep have been slaughtered practically for export during the past five years, or an annual average of 220,716 cattle and 1,019,893 sheep. The number killed for the like object during 1897 exceeded the mean of the five years in cattle, and fell somewhat short of the mean in sheep; but the excess of cattle, if converted into the terms of sheep on the generally accepted basis of 1 to 10, much more than counterbalances the falling off in sheep; so that the number killed during 1897 may be said to be above the average of the five years. As products of the boiling down there were returned for 1897 of extracts and essences 463,386 lb., and of tallow 13,651 tons. This shows a falling off in the former and a slight increase in the latter; the output of extracts, &c., being less than in either 1895 or 1896, but yet considerably in excess of previous years. The output of tallow last year was only twice exceeded; this was in 1895, when there was a production of 21,263 tons, and in 1894, when 15,683 tons was produced.

WOOL PRODUCTION.

Wool is of course by far the most important of the products connected with the pastoral industry, seeing that there are some 18,000,000 to 20,000,000 sheep shorn annually. The question of establishing local wool sales has occupied much attention during the past few months. Some ten years ago an attempt was made to accomplish this, but without success. The matter has been again taken up with energy, and there is every appearance of its being brought to a successful issue. The same arguments against the establishment of wool sales in Brisbane were used that were brought against the idea of their establishment in the southern colonies—namely, that buyers would not attend, the fallacy of which argument having in the latter case been since fully proved.

The exports of wool for 1897 amounted to 76,360,239 lb., valued at £2,509,342, so that, next to gold, wool is the most valuable production of the colony. Of the total quantity, 55,418,473 lb. were shipped in the grease, and 20,941,766 lb. scoured; practically the whole quantity exported was of home production.

OTHER PASTORAL PRODUCTS.

The by-products of the various establishments engaged in meat preserving, &c., are shown in Table No. 6 in the Appendix.

Hides and skins form the most important portion of them, although this industry is now conducted upon such practical lines that no portion of a beast that can be in any way utilised is allowed to go to waste. It has, moreover, to be borne in mind that the figures do not include live stock slaughtered for home consumption, of which, however, it is probable that but little beyond the hides and skins and tallow are saved, but which would therefore add to these products some 240,000 hides and 955,000 skins. In connection with hides the market price has greatly improved during the past few months, the ruling rates in England, where hides have been scarce, controlling the colonial sales. A marked rise was occasioned at the time of the Japo-Chinese war by the increased demand for leather consequent thereon, so that it is quite possible that prices may be further enhanced by the present war. The output from the factories in question for 1897 was 259,160 hides, which was in excess of that for 1896, but below that for 1895, although the value last year was above that of either of the two previous years—namely, £161,979. The average value of hides for each of the three years was—1895, 11s. 6d.; 1896, 11s. 10d.; and 1897, 12s. 6d.

The skins (sheep) numbered 928,330, and were valued at £125,043. This was in both number and value in excess of 1896, but much less than for 1895. The average value of sheepskins last year, would appear to be 2s. 8d. each. Other by-products were: Manure, 10,738 tons, value, £24,654; edible fats, 673,385 lb., value, £8,455; bones, 954 tons, £3,696; horns and hoofs, £3,307; hair, 76,539 lb., £1,848; oils, &c., 18,478 gallons, £1,819. The total value of by-products in 1897 was £330,801, against £285,190 in 1896. The records for last year show considerable increase in every kind, and point to a much more general practice of conservation with respect to by-products.

SIZE OF FLOCKS.

One of the most satisfactory circumstances in connection with the sheepwalks of the colony is to be found in the gradually reducing average number of sheep to each holding. This exceeded 21,000 in 1890, and last year had become reduced to below 10,000. Under exceptionally favourable conditions as to season and locality, perhaps wool may be produced at a less cost per pound on a carefully worked large station; but, without considering the many other advantages of relatively small holdings, in times of drought or other disturbance of the normal season, sheep on selections in small flocks do not suffer as heavy a mortality as when held in enormous numbers on large runs.

In the following table particulars are given as to the sheepwalks of the colony, classed in accordance with the aggregate number depastured on each:—

E.

Petty Sessions Districts.	50 and Under.		51 to 1,000.		1,001 to 5,000.		5,001 to 20,000.		20,000 and Upwards.		Total Number of Sheep.	
	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Total Owners.	Total Sheep.
Adavale	1	50	...	...	...	...	3	28,853	5	605,146	9	634,049
Aramac ... ..	...	...	4	2,200	8	22,396	12	123,634	3	163,712	27	311,942
Augathella	3	27	2	560	2	2,050	4	43,461	2	106,970	13	153,068
Barcaldine	3	9	3	700	3	9,100	12	76,286	11	841,818	32	927,913
Blackall	5	132	5	2,480	8	26,012	10	100,665	8	743,799	36	873,088
Boulia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	15,893	3	141,222	4	157,115
Charleville	18	259	15	5,549	4	18,640	4	29,490	6	263,118	47	317,056
Clermont	15	189	5	2,840	3	13,100	2	15,792	8	598,455	33	630,376
Cloncurry	9	111	1	700	...	...	...	...	5	331,520	15	382,331
Cunnamulla	4	32	7	3,969	41	131,055	34	289,000	11	843,090	97	1,267,146
Dalby	17	299	66	32,815	45	105,488	12	118,310	6	344,421	146	601,333
Eulo	1	1	...	...	...	...	5	49,721	4	125,004	10	174,726
Goondiwindi	9	109	8	3,761	12	30,099	6	66,450	3	210,841	38	311,260
Hughenden	14	146	3	1,918	3	20,887	12	120,697	16	1,215,369	48	1,359,017
Hungerford	3	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	233,012	8	233,072
Isisford	2	50	1	200	2	7,116	...	...	6	617,473	11	624,839
Longreach	8	133	10	5,016	18	53,037	23	240,863	16	1,465,454	75	1,764,503
Mitchell	9	146	21	8,979	7	12,650	...	...	4	135,711	41	157,486
Muttaburra	1	6	1	100	2	5,504	6	82,310	13	1,530,419	23	1,618,339
Roma	24	305	30	13,301	7	16,387	7	54,659	2	123,978	70	208,630
St. George	5	76	6	1,331	9	18,900	13	131,096	19	1,033,232	52	1,184,635
Springsure	16	283	3	602	6	8,400	3	28,122	6	222,420	34	259,827
Surat	6	54	9	5,750	10	25,820	6	45,482	3	144,953	34	222,059
Tambo	6	69	5	1,980	4	10,560	8	86,159	8	347,610	31	446,378
Thargomindah	4	41	3	1,000	4	13,114	8	104,639	5	228,921	24	347,715
Toowoomba	23	477	94	35,968	26	49,744	6	62,872	11	494,337	160	643,398
Warwick	23	292	49	22,229	18	35,471	3	33,905	3	94,649	96	186,546
Windorah	2	70	6	1,766	2	6,721	1	6,200	4	327,035	15	341,792
Winton	3	95	2	130	1	3,950	6	62,130	11	993,674	23	1,059,97
All other Districts	320	5,196	170	44,411	30	69,454	17	185,991	4	93,213	541	398,26
Totals	554	8,717	529	200,255	275	715,655	224	2,202,680	211	14,670,576	1,793	17,797,883

The information is given in detail with respect to each district in which not less than 100,000 are depastured. Of the 1,793 holdings, 554 comprised less than 50 sheep, probably chiefly sheep in butcher's paddocks awaiting slaughter. Nearly an equal number—529—were held in flocks of from 50 to 1,000. There were 275 holdings of from 1,000 to 5,000, with an average number of 2,602 to each. Runs with 5,000 to 20,000 number 224, comprising 2,202,680, or an average of 9,833, whilst 14,670,576 sheep, or 82 per cent. of the total number, were still held in holdings exceeding 20,000 in number. There were 211 of these, which gives an average of 69,529 to each. The average in this group of holdings in 1896 was 80,915.

The average number of sheep to each holding during each of the past eight years has been as follows:—

Year.	No. of Owners.	No. of Sheep.	Average Size of Flocks.
1890	849	18,007,234	21,210
1891	1,018	20,289,633	19,931
1892	1,496	21,708,310	14,511
1893	1,440	18,697,015	12,984
1894	1,584	19,587,691	12,366
1895	1,637	19,856,959	12,130
1896	1,664	19,593,696	11,775
1897	1,793	17,797,883	9,926

There were 29 districts in which the number of sheep exceeded 100,000, and 6 in which the number was upwards of 1,000,000.

SIZE OF HERDS.

There is, of course, a far larger number of persons holding cattle than sheep—in fact, considerably more than ten times as many; but, if owners of under 101 head are excluded, it leaves only 2,575 persons owning upwards of 5,500,000, or 93 per cent. of all the cattle in the colony.

Information as to the ownership of cattle grouped in accordance with the number to the holding is contained in the following table:—

F.

Petty Sessions District.	Owners.	1 to 100.	Owners.	101 to 300.	Owners.	301 and upwards.	Total Owners.	Total Cattle.
Alpha	69	2,327	8	1,541	13	116,439	90	120,307
Banana	37	656	5	696	23	99,259	65	100,611
Boulia	9	236	1	300	24	192,825	34	193,361
Bowen	121	2,526	13	2,466	28	131,798	162	136,790
Burke	9	262	1	200	21	211,428	31	211,890
Cape River	21	830	7	1,457	28	117,454	56	119,741
Charters Towers	206	6,873	21	3,785	26	114,281	253	124,939
Clermont	140	4,588	30	5,015	40	174,281	210	183,884
Cloncurry	23	682	10	1,669	22	345,517	55	347,868
Etheridge	30	771	23	4,660	15	109,162	68	114,593
Gayndah	114	2,693	6	1,081	23	142,076	143	145,850
Gladstone	203	4,640	28	5,828	39	98,373	270	108,841
Hughenden	97	2,423	7	1,320	35	291,313	139	295,056
Mackay	795	13,597	37	6,336	39	133,668	871	153,601
Mitchell	80	1,534	5	843	30	98,057	115	100,434
Norman	8	138	4	727	22	195,588	34	196,453
Rockhampton	595	15,262	99	16,602	97	200,560	791	232,424
St. Lawrence	37	1,290	6	1,060	30	140,244	73	142,594
Springsure	96	2,389	10	1,651	33	143,148	139	147,188
Taroom	57	939	7	1,204	25	138,627	89	140,770
Thargomindah	22	848	5	879	26	302,718	53	304,445
Windsorah	17	776	2	270	21	175,906	40	176,952
Winton	35	991	5	1,058	15	135,051	55	137,100
All other Districts	18,046	361,013	931	162,749	629	1,629,559	19,606	2,153,321
Totals	20,867	428,284	1,271	223,397	1,304	5,437,332	23,442	6,089,013

Particulars have been furnished with respect to districts comprising 100,000 head of cattle and upwards; these number 23, the greatest number in any one district being found in Cloncurry. In some of the districts the holdings are very large, as will be seen from the average number of cattle to each run in the following districts:—Burke, 6,835; Cloncurry, 6,325; Norman, 5,778; Thargomindah, 5,744; and Boulia, 5,687.

LIVE STOCK.—PROPORTION TO AREA AND POPULATION.

The question is at times asked, "What is the carrying capacity of the Queensland pastures?" This would be a most difficult question to determine. It is not one that has forced itself into notice, as the live stock at present in the colony certainly fall far short of the number for which there is room. In the early days it was commonly believed that large areas of the interior—of which but little was then known—consisted of desert quite useless for grazing purposes. The fallacy of this has been since fully proved, and Queensland, every part of which is now explored, besides comprising vast areas of agricultural soil of unsurpassed fertility, is beyond question one of the finest pastoral countries in the world, the proportion of land in normal seasons unfitted for the depasturing of live stock being comparatively small. Before the discovery of the subterranean source which furnishes the supply of artesian water, it is true that much of the Western portions of the colony formed very precarious sites for cattle stations and sheep runs, for, often whilst the grass was plentiful, much of it could not be availed of for want of water. At the present time the number of cattle and sheep, as compared with most other countries, is out of all proportion both to the area and the population, being relatively small with respect to the former and excessive as regards the latter.

The proportions of each kind of live stock per square mile and per capita at the end of 1897 in each of the three great divisions of the colony are shown in the following statement:—

	Southern Division.		Central Division.		Northern Division.		Colony.	
	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.
Horses	1·09	0·69	0·63	2·29	0·47	1·24	0·72	0·99
Cattle	11·49	7·26	8·62	31·28	7·52	19·64	9·11	12·56
Sheep	36·12	22·82	40·45	146·75	7·13	18·62	26·62	36·72
All kinds in terms of Sheep	161·96	102·32	132·99	482·46	87·08	227·38	124·88	172·23
Pigs ... ..	...	0·26	...	0·17	...	0·14	...	0·23
All kinds, including pigs, in terms of Sheep ... ..	...	102·58	...	482·63	...	227·52	...	172·46

Converting horses and cattle into terms of sheep, on the basis of one to ten, it is seen that there are 125 sheep to each square mile of country, or a little more than five acres to each sheep. As the proportions in Victoria and New South Wales are about one and a-half acres and two and a-third acres respectively, it will at once be seen that there is ample room for expansion in the number of live stock before the grazing capacities of the natural pastures are fully taxed.

The number of live stock to each 100 inhabitants of some of the pastoral countries of the world is, according to Mulhall, as follows :—

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Europe	11	30	58	15
United States	25	75	68	69
Canada	23	80	54	25
Argentina... ..	120	605	1,860	11
Uruguay	110	1,140	1,800	5
Australia	40	250	2,600	30

The numbers for Queensland for 1897 were—

Queensland	99	1,256	3,672	23
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DAIRYING, &c.

For convenience the production of honey, pork, and bacon has been classed along with dairying, as these commodities are largely connected with, although not strictly belonging to, that branch of the farming industry. Of the various products thus embraced, there was, for the most part, an increased output during 1897, although such was not the case with respect to butter and pork, there being a slight decline in the quantities of these articles made during the year.

In the following table will be found full particulars as to the production of butter, cheese, honey, pork, and bacon during last year :—

G.

Petty Sessions District.	Butter.		Honey.		Cheese.	Bacon.			
	Producers.	Lb.	Hives.	Lb.	Lb.	Pigs Slaughtered.	Fresh Pork, Lb.	Salt Pork, Lb.	Bacon and Hams.
Allora	133	185,843	44	1,342	96,476	404	3,872	7,400	42,813
Beauesert	155	83,629	243	8,210	64,315	285	480	1,400	34,289
Brisbane	255	1,362,372	1,385	89,982	10,920	38,076	359,421	14,481	2,930,054
Bundaberg	235	164,560	265	10,920	230	609	13,865	13,925	35,016
Caboolture	69	86,635	1,065	46,612	38,640	110	1,240	452	6,632
Clermont	23	21,909	75	6,420	...	669	39,631	4,450	6,410
Crow's Nest	28	22,393	292	16,442	52,298	215	580	1,624	24,594
Dalby	55	25,330	56	2,915	148,806	302	1,480	3,372	35,977
Esk	127	67,545	256	10,485	43,869	380	490	725	89,622
Gatton	138	79,186	250	13,239	11,756	1,677	6,340	34,519	119,754
Gympie	97	110,994	403	32,941	4,010	436	12,374	100	37,841
Harrisville	140	63,280	442	10,526	633,578	923	5,371	2,575	93,594
Highfields	143	65,017	220	15,904	104,519	486	175	1,045	80,781
Ipswich	128	317,177	359	13,584	...	919	39,311	3,036	49,829
Killarney	83	29,795	806	75,622	5,650	276	1,707	986	29,138
Laidley	169	40,183	675	15,821	24,334	1,136	9,465	24,963	85,750
Logan	226	137,796	2,192	78,179	7,116	1,278	38,836	12,680	63,233
Marburg	40	108,439	681	10,450	1,100	614	21,105	20,516	31,711
Maroochy	81	38,651	1,310	81,128	2,438	341	2,660	9,592	27,217
Maryborough	150	109,989	584	21,520	5,580	550	18,762	3,340	40,861
Nerang	76	65,005	1,334	44,773	3,288	283	10,780	2,020	22,775
Redcliffe	132	299,679	565	27,495	21,287	481	31,269	240	10,395
Rockhampton	128	151,910	610	57,561	33,522	1,740	34,977	6,990	116,881
South Brisbane	94	780,854	526	40,023	526	11,410	34,458	5,242	1,206,042
Tiaro	84	98,906	185	9,610	114,649	669	42,239	5,462	29,044
Toowoomba	342	707,708	214	6,047	502,064	3,726	6,621	12,265	302,283
Warwick	179	105,027	579	33,982	330,508	2,155	2,351	3,081	174,618
Woodford	42	38,022	147	7,830	5,410	57	1,800	500	3,890
All Other Districts	660	318,153	3,415	133,611	24,527	6,512	223,539	29,165	372,441
Total, 1897	4,212	5,685,987	19,178	923,174	2,291,416	76,719	965,199	226,146	6,103,485
„ 1896	4,237	6,164,240	15,165	710,697	1,921,404	67,034	932,984	287,050	5,008,726

N.B.—This Table includes the products of both factories and small makers.

Detailed information is given in the above table respecting all districts in which the industries in question assume considerable importance. Particulars respecting the remainder of the colony are comprised in the bottom line of the table, the specific inclusion of a district being determined by the gross assumed value of all the products above a minimum standard.

BUTTER.—This, the first product on the list, has assumed great prominence. Since the introduction of highly improved scientifically worked mechanical appliances has become an essential of successful butter manufacture, the ultimate removal of butter-making out of the hands of the farmer is only a question of time. The necessity for equality and economy of production will, amongst other things, bring this change about; and the farmer's article of commerce will be milk, or, at the most, cream. A few years since the idea of butter assuming importance as an article of export was very remote, the production being limited to the partial supply of local demands only, and these were frequently met by the purveyance of an article greatly inferior to the product now universally to be obtained. In consequence of the improved methods of manufacture, and the facilities offered by the inauguration of a number of central factories, the output of butter has greatly increased, and the requirements of the home consumption more than met; so that there is every prospect of butter soon assuming a prominent place amongst the exports of the colony.

A few trial shipments have already been made to the United Kingdom, some of them with conspicuous success. In 1897 one consignment in particular proved most satisfactory, its quality being excellent; and it was, moreover, landed in fine condition, not having suffered on the voyage. Some of the more recent shipments would appear to have been hardly so satisfactory, although the opinions of experts varied considerably as to the quality and condition of the butter. The weight of evidence would, however, appear to justify the conclusion that greater care might with advantage be exercised with respect to

a number of details. Unevenness of quality was generally admitted even in samples from the same factory; and as this is a condition calculated to reduce the price of the whole parcel to the value of the inferior article, it is a most important point for the producer to keep in view. So keen is the competition for the home markets that, if Queensland is to secure her legitimate share in supplying the requirements of the United Kingdom, the greatest care will have to be exercised on every point, both of the manufacture and of the shipment.

There was a reduced production of butter last year, the amount made in 1897—namely, 5,685,987—being nearly 500,000 lb. below the output for 1896. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in defining a “butter factory,” and this year a somewhat wider scope has been given to the term, which is now deemed to include any establishment in which not less than a given quantity of butter is turned out from “separator” extracted cream. There were 164 establishments which fulfilled the required conditions last year; of these 36 employed other than animal power aggregating to an equivalent of 183 horses. The hands employed in the whole 164 factories numbered 658; there were 10,892,908 gallons of milk operated upon, from which 3,477,878 lb. of butter and 1,897,272 lb. of cheese were obtained. Passing the cheese for the present, and deducting a proportionate quality of the milk, it would appear that the factories required 8,995,636 gallons of milk to produce their 3,477,878 lb. of butter, or 2·59 gallons to each pound. The remainder of the butter production has been divided into butter made in small quantities from “separator” cream and that made from skimmed cream. There were 94 farmers who came under the former category, turning out 318,720 lb. of butter and 14,654 lb. of cheese, and 3,975 under the latter, who made 2,117,214 lb. of butter from skimmed cream.

The great advantage derived from the manufacture of butter in bulk at central factories is well illustrated by the different quantities of milk required to make each pound of butter by operators on a large and small scale respectively. The former require 2·59 gallons, as previously shown, whilst the 94 proprietors who worked with a separator required 304,066 gallons of milk to make 90,895 lb. of butter—an average of 3·35 gallons, or 0·76 of a gallon, in favour of the larger factories, a waste of milk equivalent to 29 per cent. This was on a very small quantity only; but if so relatively large a loss is possible where the separator was used, what must have resulted during the production of the 2,117,214 lb. of butter made from skimmed cream? That some butter should be made after the old-fashioned manner, in places and under conditions where a separator could not be profitably employed, is inevitable; but it is somewhat surprising, in view of the great advantage which has been so fully demonstrated as to its use, that the separator should not be even still more largely availed of. Thirty-eight per cent. of the total butter production of the colony was made from skimmed cream; in 1895 the proportion was 77 per cent., and in 1896 47 per cent.

The reduced output for 1897 occurred chiefly in the large factories in North Brisbane, in which district, in 1896, 2,199,124 lb. of butter were produced against 1,362,372 lb. only last year, although the number of producers slightly increased. In the district of South Brisbane, on the other hand, there was a considerable increase in the latter year, both in the number of producers and also in the output—namely, from 63 of the one and 429,117 lb. of the latter, in 1896, to 94 and 780,854, respectively, in 1897. There were also substantial increases in Ipswich, Redcliffe, and Rockhampton. The foregoing table, of course, relates to the district where the butter is made, and, as has been previously pointed out, the industry, in common with others connected with agriculture, such as the grape and the sugar, has changed its character of late years; and the marketable commodity evolved is now frequently manufactured outside the area where the primary product is obtained. The consequence is that important dairying districts are not included in the table because the milk or cream is sent elsewhere for manufacture. The only way to obviate this difficulty will be to credit the districts of origin with the milk or cream obtained, and to treat butter manufacture as a secondary industry, outside of agriculture.

Efforts have been made to obtain this information, but it involves the employment of a somewhat complicated form, which has not been filled up satisfactorily in some instances. This common initial difficulty will be overcome and more complete information secured in future years. The following figures, showing the amount of cream returned as sent out of some of the more important districts for manufacture into butter elsewhere, may be accepted as approximately correct. The information is in addition to the cream turned into butter within the boundaries of the district itself, and the inquiry is limited to districts exporting not less than 50,000 quarts of cream during 1897:—

Quarts of Cream sent out of District.			Quarts of Cream sent out of District.		
Marburg	...	269,270	Laidley	...	104,759
Rosewood	...	210,492	Dugandan	...	103,233
Beaudesert	...	193,427	Ipswich	...	74,460
Allora...	...	165,072	Highfields	...	74,100
Warwick	...	158,949	Esk...	...	71,786
Gatton	...	151,536	Harrisville	...	69,356
Logan...	...	112,023	Nerang	...	56,591

This list shows why districts, which comprise a large number of dairy cattle among its live stock, did not make enough butter to reach the minimum required for inclusion in Table G. Thus, for instance, Rosewood and Dugandan are excluded. Had the cream been made into butter *in situ* instead of being sent away, not only would other districts exporting less than 50,000 quarts of cream have been raised to the standard required by the table, but the butter production of some of the districts quoted would be greatly reduced to swell the output of others; and so the advisableness of returning the product of the dairy farmer in the original form of milk is fully borne out.

For the first time in the history of the colony the exports of butter exceeded the imports. There were sent away, during 1897, 425,690 lb. of butter, valued at £16,771; and the imports amounted to 237,882 lb., worth £11,498. It was remarked in the report for last year that there were probably large stocks of butter in hand at the beginning of 1897—the facilities which now exist for cold storage to a large

extent removing it out of the category of quickly perishable commodities. There is little doubt that such was the case, and—although dry weather was the chief factor—this may have contributed to a reduced production, and resulted in the conversion of a larger proportion of the milk into cheese.

The experience of several years showed that the consumption of butter was about 11 lb. per capita of the population. On this basis there would be absorbed about 5,330,000 lb., leaving as in stock at the end of 1897 a larger amount than at the commencement of the year. It is therefore probable that the opportunities now available for obtaining a reliable article at a fixed price has resulted in an increased consumption, which may now be assumed to be not less than from 12 to 13 lb. per head.

HONEY.—In common with like efforts with regard to many other exportable products of the colony, the earlier attempts to introduce Queensland honey to the markets of the United Kingdom have met with indifferent success, chiefly due to a want of knowledge on the part of exporters. The peculiar flavour imparted by the Eucalyptus blossoms to much of the honey was at one time a recommendation, the honey possessing this being considered to have anti-febrile qualities. On this becoming known, unprincipled persons endeavoured to secure this flavour by mixing the honey with extract, frequently overdoing it; now, Eucalyptus honey is at a discount in the home markets. There is, however, no difficulty about obtaining plenty of honey suitable for export, and competent experts have expressed the opinion that Queensland honey has been landed in London superior to any, except, perhaps, the very best English article; and a large consumer has expressed himself prepared to take considerable quantities at a price ranging from £1 4s. to £1 5s. per cwt. f.o.b., Brisbane. A prominent apiarist is now engaged in securing the co-operation of other producers with a view of shipping regular consignments to England, so that the export of this commodity may be expected to rapidly expand.

There were 19,178 hives returned last year against 15,165 in 1896, an increase in the former year of 4,013. The increase in the honey production was proportionately even a fraction better, the average yield of honey in 1896 being 47, and in 1897 48, lb. to each hive.

Taking districts in which the number of hives exceeded 1,000, or the output of honey exceeded 50,000 lb., great differences are found as to the average yield obtained from each hive. The following statement gives this information for the more important districts, which were seven in number:—

	Lb.		Lb.		Lb.
Killarney ...	94	Rockhampton ...	94	Brisbane ...	65
Maroochy ...	62	Caboolture ...	44	Logan ...	36
Nerang ...	34				

CHEESE.—The increase in the output of cheese during 1897 amounted to rather more than 19 per cent. on the figures of the previous year, and exceeded one-third of a million pounds. There were 31 factories in which the manufacture of cheese was carried on; in 15 of them the production was combined with that of butter-making. The output of cheese at these establishments was 1,897,272 lb., or 83 per cent. of all cheese made during the year. The production has now equalled the home demand, as, practically speaking, there was no cheese either imported or exported last year, the actual figures being—imports, 17,795 lb.; and exports, 3,268 lb.

The principal sites of cheese production are at Harrisville, Toowoomba, and Warwick, where 633,578 lb., 502,064 lb., and 330,508 lb. were made respectively. Considerable quantities were also made at Dalby, Tiaro, and Highfields. The consumption of cheese in Queensland is very small, not quite 5 lb. per head, an amount greatly less than that obtaining in most countries, so that this article of diet might be utilised to a much greater extent than is now the case, with benefit to the consumer and producer alike. One large factory in the Caboolture district has been closed down, the milk which was formerly converted into cheese now being sent by rail to Brisbane.

BACON, &c.—A large expansion in this item of dairy production took place during 1897. There were 10,000 more pigs slaughtered, and upwards of 1,000,000 lb. more bacon and ham cured. These figures are exclusive of those killed by butchers. There was, on the other hand, rather less pork turned out, the increase of 32,215 lb. of fresh pork being more than counterbalanced by a decrease of 60,904 lb. of salt pork. Of the 76,719 pigs thus killed for food during 1897, 49,503 were slaughtered at factories, turning out 4,452,280 lb. of bacon and ham, or 73 per cent. of the total of 6,103,485 lb. cured during the year. The average dressed weight of pigs killed at factories was 90 lb., the mean for the whole colony being not quite 80 lb., or 10 lb. lighter. There were nine establishments engaged in the slaughter and preservation of hogs; five of these, however, were only in a very small way of business, the number dealt with by each not exceeding 1,000.

In addition to the 4,452,280 lb. of bacon turned out as already quoted, 167,743 lb. of lard were also produced, besides a considerable quantity of by-product returned as tallow, not being an edible pig fat. Nearly 50,000 of all pigs converted into bacon, &c., were slaughtered in the petty sessions districts of Brisbane or South Brisbane, where the two largest of the factories are situated. Nearly one-third of the fresh pork put on the market was supplied from the former district, the one on the south side of the river turning out a larger proportion of bacon. There would appear to be great differences in the average weight of the hogs slaughtered in the various localities, as will be seen from the following statement, which relates to all districts in which the number killed exceeded 1,000:—

	Lb.		Lb.		Lb.
South Brisbane...	109	Laidley ...	106	Gatton ...	96
Rockhampton ...	91	Logan ...	90	Brisbane ...	87
Warwick ...	84				

The large proportions of pork and bacon turned out by the factories of North and South Brisbane respectively explain the great difference between the weight of hogs killed in those districts. The very light average weight of the animals at Warwick cannot, however, be due to the same cause, as the ratio of bacon to pork in that district is equal to 37 to 1; whilst in the district of South Brisbane, where the average weight is 30 per cent. greater, the proportion of bacon to pork is as 30 to 1 only. In Laidley, besides, where the average weight was nearly as great as in South Brisbane, the bacon cured only exceeded the pork by two and a-half times.

AGRICULTURE.

One of the most satisfactory circumstances in connection with the progress of the colony is the marked increase in the area brought year by year into cultivation. The season of 1896 witnessed, up to that date, the greatest expansion in the quantity of land brought under the plough then recorded, but the great advance made in that year was surpassed in 1897; the 49,484 additional acres farmed last year being actually and relatively the largest increase in the history of the colony, amounting to an accession on the area for 1896 of 14·69 per cent.

There were 386,259 acres under cultivation, 14,402 acres in fallow, and 371,857 acres under crop in 1897. Of the area under crop 30 per cent. was under maize, exclusive of the area used for green food; 27 per cent. under sugar; 16 per cent. under wheat for grain; and 13 per cent. under hay crops of various kinds. These four different items thus absorbed 86 per cent. of the total area cropped during the year.

Although it is most satisfactory to witness the increased interest now accorded to the farmer's art, yet a large field for expansion still awaits the agricultural industry. Without taking into consideration such products as, lending themselves readily to export, would be capable of large additional output, there was last year upwards of one million pounds worth of agricultural commodities imported into the colony, which could have been grown here.

The values of the imports of agricultural products which could be grown in Queensland, for each of the past five years, are given in the following statement:—

Value of—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£
Grain, &c., and Various Products thereof	495,418	432,237	453,627	681,161	649,253
Fruit	85,975	89,141	84,652	100,410	121,843
Vegetables	58,435	61,936	51,413	109,939	88,562
Other Products of Agriculture	84,412	101,963	102,775	109,488	161,549
	724,270	685,277	692,467	1,000,998	1,021,207

Increase value in 1897 over 1896, £20,209.

From this, comparing the figures of the past two years, it will be seen that the total value of such imports amounted to rather more in 1897 than in 1896, "Fruit" and "Other Products" showing increases, and "Grain" and "Vegetables" decreases. The chief articles comprised in the first line of the statement, which aggregated some £30,000 less in 1897 than in the preceding year, were:—Wheat, £95,111; flour, £410,036; malt, £52,292; malting barley, £5,952; rice, £14,204; and oats, £15,689.

"Vegetables" included £61,102 for potatoes and £20,490 for onions; chaff, £27,251. Tobacco and hops were the principal commodities amongst miscellaneous products. Why some of the articles mentioned should be imported annually in such large quantities seems difficult of explanation. This anomaly is rapidly being removed with respect to breadstuffs, which are by far the most prominent factors in the problem; but malt, potatoes, chaff, and onions can be produced, and yet they still so largely contribute to our imports.

The expansion in the cultivation has been chiefly within the areas where agriculture has been for some time established, and 1897 did not witness so large an increase in some districts as was anticipated. The fertile lands of the Nogoa and Comet, as well as the Upper Burnett, are undoubtedly destined at an early date to add largely to the acreage under the plough.

In the vicinity of Gayndah several areas, each estimated to contain from 80,000 to 100,000 acres of soil of unsurpassed quality, have been definitely located, whilst the downs to the west of Rockhampton comprise large expanses well suited to the growth of cereals; and around Stanthorpe are to be found practically unlimited quantities of land fitted for the cultivation of stone and pip fruits.

A conference of farmers has recently been held at Rockhampton, the Honourable the Secretary for Agriculture presiding, at which a large number of questions of moment to the agricultural interest were considered and discussed; the following suggestions amongst others meeting with general approval:—That the Government should make provision to facilitate the placing of dairy produce in the markets of the United Kingdom, and also provide markets in the principal towns of the colony; appoint official inspectors to grade and mark butter intended for export, and to inspect dairy herds with a view to the destruction of diseased animals; also that farmers should co-operate so as to secure a better sale for their products in the markets of the colony.

AREAS OF FARMS.

Not only, as already referred to, was there a large addition to the area cultivated in 1897, but an investigation of the returns points to a fair increase in the number of cultivators, although the latter was not so great as the increase in the area brought under the plough.

The following statement furnishes information on both these points for the past five years; also classing the farmers and farms into groups according to the area of the cultivation on the holding:—

Year.	NUMBER OF CULTIVATED AREAS IN EACH GROUP.					TOTAL AREA CULTIVATED IN EACH GROUP.				
	5 acres and under.	Above 5 acres and not exceeding 20.	Above 20 acres and not exceeding 50.	Above 50 acres.	Total.	5 acres and under.	Above 5 acres and not exceeding 20.	Above 20 acres and not exceeding 50.	Above 50 acres.	Total.
1893	2,711	4,616	2,724	890	10,941	6,342	50,901	80,343	114,489	252,075
1894	3,052	4,707	2,910	1,039	11,708	8,197	55,863	90,596	129,896	284,552
1895	2,993	4,844	3,132	1,069	12,038	8,138	57,970	96,843	136,327	299,278
1896	2,922	5,011	3,560	1,333	12,826	8,269	60,660	110,402	157,444	336,775
1897	2,847	4,938	3,770	1,803	13,358	8,604	60,902	118,363	198,390	386,259

One feature of interest disclosed on an analysis of the details relating to each size group is the increase in 1897 in the mean area cultivated in all except the one exceeding 50 acres. This justifies the conclusion that for the most part the farmers established in 1896 were prospering and adding to the cultivated areas of their farms. The average area of cultivation on all the farms in the colony advanced by more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

There were 10,941 persons occupied in the cultivation of the soil in 1893, and 13,358 in 1897, or an increase in the four years of 22 per cent.

The area, however, increased during the same period at a greater ratio—namely, from 252,075 acres to 386,259 acres, or a proportion of 53 per cent.

The following table furnishes information on this point with respect to all districts in which not less than 1,000 acres were cultivated :—

H.

Petty Sessions District.	ACRES UNDER CULTIVATION.									
	5 Acres and under.		Above 5 and not exceeding 20 Acres.		Above 20 and not exceeding 50 Acres.		Above 50 Acres.		Totals.	
	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.
Allora	2	5	23	330	78	2,724	230	26,691	333	29,750
Ayr	3	10	8	106	18	581	33	7,426	62	8,123
Beaudesert	49	135	114	1,309	66	1,822	8	555	237	3,821
Bowen	14	49	59	686	22	649	5	381	100	1,765
Brisbane	283	843	295	2,995	47	1,162	1	65	626	5,065
Bundaberg	16	58	117	1,481	159	5,229	112	19,556	404	26,324
Caboolture	44	142	55	605	15	431	1	58	115	1,236
Cairns	26	92	39	484	52	1,654	56	6,620	173	8,850
Childers	18	58	65	920	138	4,849	80	8,861	301	14,688
Crow's Nest	31	107	141	1,868	80	2,491	3	244	255	4,710
Dalby	54	158	134	1,491	53	1,555	21	1,306	262	4,510
Douglas	11	35	27	339	17	533	23	2,135	78	3,042
Dugandan	15	48	126	1,742	205	6,264	17	1,161	363	9,215
Esk	70	157	83	952	51	1,543	14	955	218	3,607
Gatton	36	113	236	3,199	248	7,819	59	4,492	579	15,623
Gin Gin	3	10	22	260	24	725	20	2,092	69	3,087
Goodna	11	35	30	384	13	404	3	181	57	1,004
Gympie	88	264	104	1,087	29	857	12	896	233	3,104
Harrisville	11	37	137	1,832	146	4,819	26	1,982	320	8,670
Herberton	28	100	37	484	29	908	16	1,487	110	2,979
Highfields	39	423	150	2,781	166	4,989	43	2,622	398	10,815
Ingham	10	38	43	680	37	1,250	69	7,891	159	9,859
Ipswich	81	232	109	1,342	60	1,821	10	685	260	4,080
Killarney	17	49	33	395	42	1,366	43	5,440	135	7,250
Laidley	9	27	106	1,466	239	7,496	72	5,834	426	14,823
Logan	84	256	220	2,781	71	1,647	10	677	385	5,361
Mackay	55	177	211	2,958	255	8,304	165	18,308	686	29,747
Marburg	16	48	93	1,372	189	5,580	15	1,260	313	8,260
Maroochy	95	288	146	1,462	22	645	2	179	265	2,574
Maryborough	110	356	149	1,666	43	1,244	6	680	308	3,946
Mitchell	2	6	10	128	9	333	13	1,599	34	2,066
Mourilyan	19	83	77	931	43	1,271	38	4,069	177	6,354
Nanango	12	44	46	538	25	674	3	226	86	1,482
Nerang	34	103	87	993	52	1,667	22	1,754	195	4,517
Redcliffe	32	95	131	1,685	61	1,812	16	1,127	240	4,719
Rockhampton	93	261	129	1,403	47	1,466	18	1,107	287	4,237
Roma	39	116	69	869	57	1,847	43	2,985	208	5,817
Rosewood	17	64	88	1,211	114	3,528	10	606	229	5,409
South Brisbane	89	219	99	1,139	36	1,086	5	350	229	2,794
Texas	17	47	25	265	17	606	1	109	60	1,027
Tiaro	32	97	106	1,272	63	1,895	17	1,049	218	4,313
Toowoomba	348	926	398	4,868	361	12,179	211	27,568	1,318	45,541
Warwick	36	85	106	1,381	142	4,775	212	22,855	496	29,096
Yeulba	27	99	33	365	26	793	2	145	88	1,402
Other Districts	721	2,009	422	4,397	103	3,070	17	2,121	1,263	11,597
TOTALS	2,847	8,604	4,938	60,902	3,770	118,363	1 803	198,390	13,358	386,259

In 44 districts the area of cultivation was sufficient to bring it within the standard of particularisation. The aggregate acreage under plough in these districts was 374,662 acres, or 97 per cent. of the total cultivation. In the great sugar and wheat districts of the colony, such as Allora, Bundaberg, Mackay, Toowoomba, and Warwick, a large proportion of farms exceeding 50 acres under plough were found. Of farms, if such they can be called, on which the cultivation is less than 5 acres in extent, a large number are comprised in the districts of Brisbane, Toowoomba, and Maryborough.

The centesimal increase in the number of farms and of the area farmed in each group during 1897 was as follows :—

Group.	Centesimal Increase in number of Farms.	Centesimal Increase in Area Cultivated.
5 acres and under	— 2·57	4·05
Above 5 and not exceeding 20 acres	— 1·46	0·40
Above 20 and not exceeding 50 acres	5·90	7·22
Above 50 acres	35·26	26·00
Total	4·15	14·69

— Decrease.

Next to the proportionate increase in the group of farms of the largest size, which has already been referred to, the advance has been with farms of from 20 to 50 acres; and, unlike those of 50 acres and upwards, the ratio of progress of area has been greater than that of number.

The mean size of cultivated area of each group for the past five years was as follows:—

			5 Acres and under.	5 to 20 Acres.	20 to 50 Acres.	50 Acres and Upwards.	Total.
1893	...	...	2	11	29	129	23
1894	...	...	3	12	31	125	24
1895	...	...	3	12	31	128	25
1896	...	...	3	12	31	118	26
1897	...	...	3	12	31	110	29

The increase in the average size of all farms is thus seen to be annually expanding. The advance for 1897 was, moreover, the best recorded during the period.

LABOUR AND MACHINERY ON FARMS.

Information as to these particulars was collected this year for the first time, the necessary questions being added to the agricultural schedules. These were very fairly responded to by the farmers, and the collectors, for the most part, took an intelligent view of the subject, and consequently the information was more complete than is sometimes the case with a first attempt.

The particulars scheduled included the number of males and females engaged in work upon the farm, distinguishing between the employer and his family and hired help; also the aggregate value of machinery and implements employed. This has been compiled in districts, but as, for reasons already given, it is not quite so complete as in future years it may reasonably be expected to become, the totals in each of the great divisions of the colony are alone published:—

Division.			Employer and Family.		Hands Employed.		Value of Machinery and Implements, £
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Southern	...	...	17,146	5,783	7,611	803	423,664
Central ...	...	...	779	262	626	50	35,555
Northern	...	...	2,412	345	7,200	200	246,640
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	20,337	6,390	15,437	1,053	705,859

IRRIGATION.

Notwithstanding the importance that of necessity attaches to the question of irrigation in a tropical and semi-tropical country such as Queensland, yet hitherto the matter has never received the attention which it merits. The cultivation line is only now just beginning to spread to the westward a sufficient distance from the seaboard to render the subject a pressing one. Although at times, even in the coastal districts, periods of dry weather are experienced, yet such droughts fall far short of the intensity with which they visit the far interior of the colony, and which will, as these latter areas are brought under the plough, resolve the problem into a question of paramount importance. This absence for the most part of continued drought in the localities where agriculture has chiefly prevailed, combined with the customary yields which are returned to the hands of the farmer from the very fertile lands of the colony, has been the cause of relegating irrigation on a scientific and comprehensive basis to only a passing consideration. Under the pressure of dry seasons the question has been mooted, to be dropped with the first shower of rain. Matters at one time went so far that preliminary investigations as to suitable sites were instituted, but these were only pushed sufficiently to prove that in several places large areas of good land were available, so situated as to offer every facility for the conservation and application of water under most favourable conditions.

Whilst irrigation, in the sense in which the term is generally understood, forms no part of the curriculum of agriculture as pursued in this colony, yet the use of water artificially applied as an aid to the growth of crops is not entirely dispensed with. A considerable area of cultivation is each year brought within the sphere of its influence.

Returns have been collected on this subject since 1891, so that information on this head is now available for seven years, and particulars respecting it will be found in the following statement:—

Year.	Acres Irrigated.					Year.	Acres Irrigated.				
1891	3,869	1895 ...	...	...	...	...	6,447
1892	3,840	1896 ...	...	...	...	...	6,395
1893	5,287	1897 ...	...	...	...	...	6,647
1894	5,846						

Thus, within the period under review, the area has very nearly doubled; the returns for 1897 comprising the largest acreage irrigated recorded in any one year.

The experiences of the cultivators who availed themselves of this aid to their work, as returned on their schedules, are well nigh unanimous as to the fact that the labour and outlay incurred was amply repaid in the increased production of the soil so treated.

The following table gives full information on the question of irrigation in each of the districts from which returns were received:—

I.
IRRIGATION.

Petty Sessions District in which situated.	Acres Irrigated.	Original Source of Water Supply.	Means Employed for Procurement and Utilisation.	Crops Treated.	Remarks by Irrigator.
Adavale ...	3	Blackwater River	Horse pump, drains ...	Fruit, vegetables.	
Angathella ...	4	Warrego River	Horse pump, whip and barrel, drains	Grapes, vegetables ...	Source of water supply affected by drought.
Ayr ...	5,165	Wells, river, artesian, and lagoons	Steam pumps, centrifugals, fixed and portable engines, open trenches and flumes, and by flooding	Sugar-cane, maize, potatoes, and general crops	Without irrigation crops would have been very poor; but for irrigation, could not be profitably grown in this district.
Banana ...	2	Dawson River	Windmill, pipes	Fruit trees.	
Barcaldine ...	172	Alice River, artesian	Steam pump, gravitation, drains	Oats, maize, wheat, vegetables, grasses	Rainfall would have been useless without.
Blackall ...	57	Barcoo River, artesian	Pumps, gravitation ...	Fruit trees, vegetables.	
Bowen ...	138	Don River, wells, creek	Steam and horse pumps, windmills, gravitation	Fruit trees, vegetables, coffee and general crops	Crops better on account irrigation.
Brisbane ...	43	Creeks, wells	Steam pump, windmills, gravitation, pipes, hose, and flooding	Fruit trees, vegetables ...	During winter time irrigation gives opportunity for earlier planting.
Cape River ...	22	Cape River, Betts Creek	Horse pumps, drains ...	Fruit trees, vegetables, oranges.	
Charters Towers	16	Wells	Steam pumps, windmills, pipes and drains	Fruit, oats, vines, vegetables.	
Charleville ...	22	Warrego River, wells	Steam and horse pumps, gravitation, pipes and drains	Wheat, sorghum, fruit, and vegetables	Irrigation kept crops alive till rain fell.
Cleveland ...	4	Wells	Windmill, pipes	Oranges, vegetables.	
Cloncurry ...	29	MacKinlay River, wells	Horse pumps, chain pumps, drains	Potatoes, &c.	
Cook ...	3	Spring	Gravitation, trenches	Maize, potatoes.	
Croydon ...	10	Carron River, wells	Horse and steam pumps, pipes, and hose	Potatoes, vegetables, fruit trees.	
Cunnamulla ...	40	Artesian	Gravitation ...	Wheat.	
Esk ...	91	Lockyer and Cressbrook Creeks	Steam pumps, calico hose, and 12-inch pipes	Lucerne ...	Beneficial effects.
Emerald ...	10	Wells	Horse pumps, whip and barrel, drains	Grapes and fruit trees ...	Crops yielded more owing to irrigation.
Etheridge ...	10	Gilbert River	Steam pumps, pipes, and trenches	Fruit trees, vegetables, maize...	Crops not sufficiently advanced to make definite remarks.
Gatton ...	4	Lockyer Creek	Horse pump, pipes, and trenches	Garden.	
Gin Gin ...	3	Dungall Creek	Steam pumps, trenches	Lucerne, garden, and orchard.	
Herberton ...	6	Springs	Gravitation, drains	Potatoes, vegetables, fruit trees	Excellent yield.
Hughenden ...	114	Wells	Steam and horse pumps, drains	Maize, sorghum, vegetables, fruit	Less, owing to water supply failing.
Isisford ...	14	Barcoo River and Thornleigh Creek	Horse and hand pumps, drains	Oranges, vegetables.	
Longreach ...	4	Thompson River	Horse pump, drains	Oranges, vegetables.	
Mackay ...	102	Lagoons, wells, creeks	Steam pumps, gravitation, pipes, trenches	Sugar-cane, orchards ...	Water supply affected by dry weather.
Maroochy ...	2	Dam	Steam pump, pipes	Strawberries.	
Mt. Murrumbidgee ...	11	Landsborough River, lagoons	Steam and horse pumps, windmill, drains, gravitation	Fruit trees, vegetables ...	Dry season.
Norman ...	19	Lagoons	Centrifugal and horse pumps, drains	Vegetables.	
Ravenswood	4	Well	Steam pump, windmill, drains, pipes	Fruit trees.	
Rockhampton	65	Scrubby Creek, wells, and river	Steam pumps, piping, hose, drains, gravitation	Potatoes, lucerne, maize, vegetables, oranges, vines	Land irrigated a success so far.
Roma ...	10	Bungil Creek	Steam pumps, piping, gravitation	Vegetables.	
St. George ...	50	Balonne River, wells, Wallam Creek, artesian	Steam, horse and hand pumps, drains, pipes	Lucerne, wheat, vegetables, and fruit trees.	
Springsure ...	4	Creek	Hand pump, gravitation, drains	Vegetables.	
Stanthorpe ...	45	Wells, springs, creek	Steam and hand pumps, gravitation	Vegetables and fruit trees.	
South Brisbane	19	Bulimba Creek	Steam pumps, trenches, pipes, taps	Fruit trees, vegetables, nursery stock	Very satisfactory.
Tambo ...	15	Barcoo River	Horse and hand pumps, drains	Market garden.	
Taroom ...	5	Dawson River	Windmill, pipes	Fruit orchard ...	But for irrigation all fruit trees would have died.
Thargomindah	12	Bulloo River	Horse and hand pumps, drains	Fruit garden ...	Improved crops.
Thornborough	2	Well	Windmill, pipes	Fruit trees.	
Townsville ...	149	Stewart's Creek, Ross River, lagoon and wells	Steam and horse pumps, windmill, gravitation, drains	Fruit trees, sorghum, potatoes, vegetables.	
Toowoomba ...	143	Condamine River, wells	Steam and pulsometer pumps, windmills, surface flooding, pipes	Lucerne and rape.	
Windsorah ...	4	Cooper's Creek	Horse pumps, pipes	Grapes, potatoes.	
Total ...	6,647				

In 43 districts the water was artificially employed, to a greater or less extent, for purposes of agriculture. In 7 districts the area treated exceeded 100 acres, and in 4 more it amounted to at least 50 acres.

The premier district in this respect was Ayr, where no less than 5,165 acres were irrigated, or 78 per cent. of the whole. The sources of supply and the means of elevation and distribution are most varied. Although applied industry is sometimes employed for securing the water in an artificial reservoir, yet, for the most part, natural sources of supply in their primitive state are relied upon, rivers, creeks, and lagoons being much more in evidence in the returns than dams, wells, and bores. The latter are given as sources of supply at Ayr, Barcaldine, Blackall, and St. George. As to the first-named place, the supply is probably drawn from a tube well, but can hardly be from a true artesian source. Gravitation necessarily cannot often be used as the means of conveyance direct from the natural source of supply without the intervention of power to first raise the water, so as to secure a head. A great increase in the use of steam as the means of elevation is at once noticeable on comparing the returns for 1897 with those of previous years. Nearly every kind of crop grown, including vegetables and fruit, is to be found amongst the returns, but, inasmuch as Ayr contributes so large a proportion of the irrigated area, and the principal object of cultivation in the district is sugar-cane, that crop inevitably figures largely in the area submitted to irrigation.

AVERAGE YIELDS.

Detailed information respecting areas cultivated with each description of crop, and the results obtained in each district of the colony, are given in the tables to be found from No. VIII. to the end of the Appendix. A summary of this information, showing in certain geographical groups the average results obtained during 1897 from each of the crops cultivated, is given in the following table:—

J.
AVERAGE YIELD OF CROPS.

Division.	Description.	GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES.		Sugar to Acres Crushed.	Cotton.	Arrow-root.	Tobacco, Dried Leaf.	Coffee.	Hay of all Kinds.	Grapes.	Banana as.	Pine-apples.	Oranges.
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rice.	Eye.	English.	Sweet.										
SOUTHERN	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	East of Main Range	12-22	9-80	21-27	25-43	29-14	18-04	2-16	1-87	1-12	433-85	7-44	4-33	136-79	2-47	2,330-62	1,964-90	421-18	Dozen. 605-54
	West of Main Range	17-05	17-54	24-23	25-08	...	16-61	2-65	2-45	...	...	...	7-59	...	1-44	2,897-36	1,750-00	Nil	955-59
CENTRAL	Total Southern	16-89	17-31	24-00	25-30	29-14	17-45	2-27	4-81	1-12	433-85	7-44	7-58	136-79	1-99	2,647-73	1,964-53	418-09	633-30
	East of Main Range	1-59	12-25	15-00	16-86	...	15-00	1-26	3-12	1-15	...	3-00	...	119-43	1-20	1,340-02	663-83	278-27	1,038-76
	West of Main Range	15-04	20-00	...	15-14	...	...	2-53	2-60	...	...	...	...	...	1-34	2,579-00	...	...	165-00
NORTHERN	Total Central	3-75	13-80	15-00	16-82	...	15-00	1-46	3-11	1-15	...	3-00	...	119-43	1-20	1,535-64	663-83	278-27	1,015-15
	East of Main Range	...	...	...	30-04	29-42	...	2-19	5-77	1-83	10-00	...	1-33	279-31	1-94	791-43	4,179-45	280-83	958-18
	West of Main Range	4-67	8-16	...	32-25	21-85	35-71	2-61	3-76	...	...	0-50	...	...	2-70	911-59	995-38	438-85	759-41
TOTAL COLONY	Total Northern	4-67	8-16	...	31-11	29-19	35-71	2-37	5-31	1-83	10-00	0-50	1-33	279-31	2-54	870-56	4,141-00	295-52	928-73
	...	16-86	17-17	24-00	25-55	29-19	17-72	2-26	4-88	1-50	416-19	7-39	7-55	262-42	1-96	2,564-06	3,416-45	386-72	741-43

The question of how to treat the unproductive area of wheat is a difficult one. Presuming that this cereal is planted with the intention of securing grain, it is the practice to charge all the unproductive area to wheat for grain. This, when the season is a bad one, acts adversely on average yields recorded, and occasions a marked difference between that average and the average on acres reaped. This course is, I believe, pursued in most of the Australasian colonies. On the other hand, in the United States, I am informed, it is the custom to exclude the totally unproductive areas from the acreage cropped, treating them as fallowed land. This would of course reduce the total area under crop but not under cultivation. The averages given in the foregoing table relate to wheat for grain which includes the unproductive, and thus gives a lower average than if the yield were taken on the area reaped. In the column relating to oats it will be seen that the best yield was obtained from the Central division, in the group of districts lying to the west of the range, although the mean for the total Southern division exceeded that for the whole of the Central. The best returns from barley were obtained in the Darling Downs districts, although in the Southern division the average yield from the area to the east of the range was not much below the mean of the more inland districts. With maize, the highest average resulted from the crops of the districts of the Northern division, where also the yields of rice exceeded the averages of the Southern division by a fraction. The returns from cereals generally were not quite so good in 1897 as in 1896, but in the latter year the season was particularly favourable to grain crops. In potatoes, the English variety gave rather poorer results than in 1896, whilst, on the other hand, the sweet potato showed a slight improvement. Growers of tobacco were less successful in 1897 than in 1896, the crop returning upwards of 1 cwt. less of dried leaf to each acre. Cotton has practically ceased to be an object of attention, as only 48 acres were under crop last year. Coffee, a tropical plant, naturally showed best results in the North, but this is no doubt partly due to the fact that the plantations in that portion of the colony are a year or two in advance of those of the South in point of age, and the trees are consequently nearer full bearing.

Hay crops, which comprise a conspicuous portion of the cultivation area, gave like results for the whole colony in both of the last two years. On each occasion the North gave better returns than either the South or Central division.

Of fruit, grapes, bananas, and oranges gave rather poorer results than in 1896, pineapples showing slightly better. The decline in the average yield obtained from grapes was especially marked in the Central division, whilst the return from bananas in the Southern division in 1897 was much better than in the preceding year; and the reverse was the case with respect to pineapples, the slight improvement in the average for the whole colony being due to better yields in the districts north of Gladstone. The crop of oranges in the Northern and Central divisions was more satisfactory than in the South, but not sufficiently so to redeem the total results from being much below the averages of immediately preceding years.

WHEAT.—Not one of the crops grown during 1897 have exhibited so pronounced an increase as this cereal, the production attaining very nearly to one-third of the requirements of the colony, and exceeded the output for 1896 by 68 per cent. The prospects of this crop at one time were not good, as it was threatened with rust. The worst expectations in this respect, however, were not realised, for although rust was more in evidence in 1897 than in 1896, its effects did not prove so injurious as was anticipated. Nearly one-half of the total area was blighted, but the average yield of grain therefrom fell but little short of that obtained from the clean crop.

There were 66,099 acres sown with wheat during 1897, which was 27,157 acres more than in the preceding year. Of this area 5,898 acres were mown for hay, 326 cut for green food for live stock, and 2,087 acres were entirely unproductive. The average yield secured in 1897—namely, 17·47 bushels to each acre reaped for grain—and excluding the unproductive area, has only once been exceeded during the last quinquennium. This was in 1894, when a return of 19·48 bushels was obtained. As the average return in 1896 was 17·34 bushels, the crop has proved a most successful one for two successive seasons. The total yield of wheat grain was 1,009,293 bushels, which was considerably in excess of what was estimated, the crop having threshed out better than was anticipated.

The results obtained from this crop during each of the last five years are given in the following table:—

K.

Year.	Total Area Sown.	Reaped for Grain.			Mown for Hay.			Cut for Green Food.	Unproductive.
		Acres.	Produce.	Average Per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average Per Acre.		
			Bushels.	Bushels.		Tons.	Tons.	Acres.	Acres.
1893	31,750	28,411	413,094	14·54	2,417	2,820	1·17	340	582
1894	34,387	27,991	545,185	19·48	4,643	6,362	1·37	747	1,006
1895	29,650	12,950	123,630	9·55	1,344	1,428	1·06	1,216	14,140
1896	38,942	34,670	601,254	17·34	1,845	1,689	0·92	1,269	1,158
1897	66,099	57,788	1,009,293	17·47	5,898	7,820	1·33	326	2,087

The crop, though generally so satisfactory last year, was to a considerable extent affected with rust, consequently a much larger area than usual was mown for hay, nearly 6,000 acres being thus dealt with; also the acreage that was totally unproductive was nearly twice as great as the like area in 1896.

The average yield obtained was very satisfactory when compared with the results secured in some of the other colonies. The return per acre of wheat grain from each of them, according to the most recent information available, was:—Queensland (1897), 17·47 bushels; New South Wales (1897), 10·63 bushels; Victoria (1896), 4·49 bushels; South Australia (1897), 2·64 bushels; Western Australia (1896), 7·75 bushels; Tasmania (1896), 17·34 bushels; New Zealand (1896), 22·92 bushels. Thus the return obtained in Queensland was only exceeded by one colony—namely, New Zealand. There is no doubt that the climate of that province is better suited to the growth of this cereal than the more torrid one of this colony. It is difficult to realise how the South Australian farmer has existed for so long on the very poor results obtained, and yet the yield for 1897 of 2·64 bushels was not an exceptional one, as it exceeded the return for the preceding year by nearly a bushel per acre.

In the Appendix to this Report at Table No. XIII. will be found full details respecting wheat culture in each district of the colony where the cereal is grown.

The cultivation of this grain was extended over a wider area than ever before. There were 55 districts in which land was sown with wheat last year, against 45 districts in 1896. The areas planted in the new districts were, however, very small.

The area devoted to wheat may at present be considered as practically confined to that portion of the Southern division of the colony which lies to the west of the Great Dividing Range, 61,691 acres, or 93 per cent. of the total area sown, being contributed by districts comprised in that portion of the colony.

Of the 4,210 acres planted to the east of the range, 3,681, or 87 per cent., were in West Moreton group of districts, 456 in the Wide Bay and Burnett group, the remaining 73 acres being distributed over the rest of the area. Gatton, Laidley, and Crow's Nest were the most prominent districts in West Moreton, having areas under wheat of 1,715,881, and 539 acres respectively. Unfortunately in Gatton, the district with the largest area, the rust very seriously affected the crop, no less than 1,418 acres being smitten. The result was that the produce of 1,294 acres was converted into hay, all but 26 acres of which were affected by rust.

The average yields obtained from the areas reaped in the 3 districts in question were:—Gatton, 10·1 bushels per acre; Laidley, 10·7 bushels per acre; and Crow's Nest, 18·9 bushels per acre. Passing to the districts which lie to the west of the Great Dividing Range, the rust was found not to have prevailed to the same extent as was experienced in the coastal districts. Not only was a relatively smaller area attacked, but the effects were also less severe; the average yields from the rusty crops in the Western districts being in excess of that obtained from the like area nearer the coast. Of the 61,691 acres sown in what may be defined as the Downs and Maranoa districts, 1,543 acres were entirely unproductive, 117 acres were cut for green food for cattle, and 3,790 were mown for hay, leaving 56,241 acres to attain to their legitimate fruition of "yielding grain." Of the two last-named areas 25,602, or 42·65 per cent., were affected with rust, of which 2,352 acres were mown for hay, and 23,250 acres, or 90·81 per cent., were reaped for grain; whilst of the 34,429 acres unaffected, 1,438 acres were cut for hay, and 32,991 acres, or 95·82 per cent., yielded grain. Thus, rust would appear to have been instrumental in causing a 5 per cent. larger area being converted into hay in this portion of the colony, that being the difference between the proportions devoted to hay in the affected and the unaffected areas respectively.

The wheat areas west of the range may be divided into three groups of districts—namely, the "Downs," the "Maranoa," and the "Warrego." In the first-named are included Southern districts with small areas, which might, perhaps, be challenged as not strictly belonging to the Downs group, but should stand by themselves. The acreage in each, sown with wheat and reaped for grain, and the yields obtained, were as follow:—

	Acres Sown.	Acres Reaped.	Grain (Bushels).	Average.
The Downs Group ...	54,722	50,427	929,148	18·42
The Maranoa „ ...	6,855	5,814	56,047	9·64
The Warrego „ ...	114	...	...	...

The small area planted in the Warrego group was all converted into hay. It is deserving of note that there was not a single acre reported as affected by rust in either the Maranoa or the Warrego; whilst, of the Downs group, only two districts were entirely free—namely, Goondiwindi and Texas. In the intervening district of Inglewood only 1 acre was returned as affected.

In the same group are found 50,000 out of the 57,000 acres reaped for grain, the centesimal proportion of the total area being 87, and of the total production 92. Three districts of this group comprise 76·6 per cent. of its total wheat area and 80·6 per cent. of its total wheat production. These yielded returns as follow:—

	Acres Reaped.	Bushels.	Average.
Toowoomba ...	16,843	296,508	17·6
Warwick ...	12,606	240,784	19·1
Allora ...	12,463	211,953	17·0
	41,912	749,245	17·9

The average yield obtained from each acre reaped, over the 3 districts, was just short of 18 bushels. The least satisfactory return was in Allora, although the average of 17 bushels per acre returned from that district was itself most satisfactory in view of the averages obtained in most of the other colonies of Australasia, which have already been quoted. In some of the districts, with much smaller areas under wheat, but yet with acreages planted and reaped with that cereal exceeding 1,000 acres, much better results were obtained. Highfields from 3,094 acres gathered an average crop of 20·01 bushels; Killarney from 3,052 acres reaped an average of 22·37 bushels; and Dalby from 1,919 acres a return of 21·56 bushels.

The Maranoa group though, as stated, unaffected by rust, yet failed to give as good results as the more easterly districts just quoted. Of the 5 districts comprised, 2—St. George and Surat—reaped no wheat for grain. With the exception of 16 acres unproductive, and 1 acre cut for green food, the 178 acres planted were all mown for hay; so that the 5,814 acres reaped were provided by the other 3 districts. The returns obtained in each of these were as follow:—

	Acres Reaped.	Bushels.	Average.
Roma ...	3,654	38,920	10·65
Mitchell ...	1,474	8,763	5·95
Yeulba ...	686	8,364	12·19
	5,814	56,047	9·64

The average return is thus seen to be but little more than half of that of the Downs group, the best result being obtained in the districts located most to the east, thus the average yield in Roma was nearly twice as good as in Mitchell, and that in Yeulba nearly 15 per cent. better than was secured in Roma.

OATS.—Although there is a considerable demand for this cereal, little or no advance is made with its production, notwithstanding which the acreage planted fluctuates greatly from year to year. The area sown in both 1896 and 1897 certainly showed a large increase on the figures for several preceding years, yet it was but little in excess of the acreage for 1879, just eighteen years previous.

The experience with the crop for the past two years is shown in the following table:—

L.

Year.							Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
							Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,881	32,181	17.10
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,834	31,496	17.17
Increase in 1897							...	...	0.07
Decrease in 1897							47	685	...

The acreage and the production are thus seen to have both been a little less in the more recent year, although the crop returned a better average yield in 1897. The production area of this grain follows nearly the same line as that of wheat cultivation.

Upwards of 95 per cent. of the total area planted with oats for grain was situated in one or other of the districts in the Southern division which lie west of the range.

There were 86,727 bushels of oats imported last year, valued at £12,136, and, as there were practically none exported, this makes a consumption of 119,223 bushels, of which 31,496 bushels, or 26 per cent., were the produce of the colony. In addition to this there was oatmeal and hulled oats to the value of £15,172 introduced. These articles carry an import duty of—oats, 8d. per bushel; oatmeal, 4s. per cwt.; and hulled oats, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

BARLEY.—As this grain is but little used as a breadstuff, its chief value is for malting. There was more barley grown last year than in any previous year, although in 1879 the production approximated somewhat closely.

The acreage under barley, the production, and the average yield for each of the last two years are shown in the following table:—

M.

Year.							Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
							Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,122	19,340	17.24
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,077	49,840	24.00
Increase in 1897							955	30,500	6.76
Decrease in 1897							...	...	...

From this it will be seen that last year, compared with 1896, the acreage very nearly, and the produce considerably more than doubled—the average yield having been 24.00 bushels to the acre last year against 17.24 bushels in 1896.

Malt has been used in increasing quantities, as beer of colonial manufacture has come into more general consumption; but, although the quantity of malt made in the colony has advanced year by year, the output has borne but a very small proportion to the total consumption. There have been no satisfactory explanations offered for this. Good malting barley can be grown in the colony, but maltsters assert that much grain unfitted for this purpose is offered by the farmer; these, on the other hand, complain that, when they have grown barley, as the malthouse is the only market, they find themselves forced to sell at an unremunerative figure, owing to the absence of competition, the purchasers being so limited in number.

The quantity of malt made and imported respectively during each of past six years was as follows:—

							Malted in Queensland, (Financial Year), Bushels.	Imported, Bushels.
1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	737	116,377
1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,198	121,607
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,408	127,188
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,537	153,843
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,988	147,474
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,400	156,613

Whilst during the financial year 1897-8 there were 34,589 bushels of malt produced.

In 1898 the home-produced article formed only some 20 per cent. of the total demand, in the face of an import duty of 4s. 6d. per bushel. No barley specially returned as malting was imported in 1896, therefore it may reasonably be assumed that the 14,400 bushels of malt made in 1896-7 was manufactured out of Queensland grain. This has not been the case in every year, so that even the very modest contribution of home-made malt in other years does not all represent home-grown grain.

MAIZE.—This grain is more extensively cultivated than any other crop. There were 109,721 acres sown with maize last year, exclusive of the area planted and cut in the form of green food for live stock. As the total area under crop was 371,857 acres, maize occupied 30 per cent. of the total area. There were 2,803,172 bushels produced last year, which was less than in 1896, when not only were there nearly 6,000 more acres under this cereal, but the yield was also an exceptionally good one. Last year the return of 25.55 bushels to each acre was above the average.

A comparison of this crop for each of the last two seasons is afforded by the following table:—

N.

Year.								Grain.		Average Produce per Acre.
								Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115,715	3,065,333	26·49
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109,721	2,803,172	25·55
Increase in 1897								...	...	...
Decrease in 1897								5,994	262,161	0·94

Although so large a producer of maize, yet the exports of this grain are, comparatively speaking, inconsiderable. As it is not employed as a breadstuff, it is surprising how a use is found for so great a quantity. Of imports of the raw grain there are, of course, practically none, but considerable quantities of its various products in the form of different varieties of cornflour, &c., reach the colony. There should here be ample scope for a new industry, and a factory for the purpose is now being established in the Caboolture district.

Naturally the cultivation area of this crop is a more extended one than that of any other agricultural product. It was cultivated last year to a greater or less extent in no less than 79 districts. In 25 of these the area planted exceeded 1,000 acres, and particulars respecting the crop for the past two years in each of them will be found detailed in the following table:—

O.

Petty Sessions District.	Area Planted for Grain.			Yield of Grain.			Average Yield per Acre.		
	In 1896.	In 1897.	Increase * or Decrease †	In 1896.	In 1897.	Increase * or Decrease †	In 1896.	In 1897.	Increase * or Decrease †
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Laidley ...	10,702	9,403	† 1,299	254,804	199,010	† 55,794	23·81	21·16	† 2·65
Warwick ...	10,206	9,255	† 951	263,354	274,583	* 11,229	25·80	29·67	* 3·87
Toowoomba ...	10,403	8,855	† 1,548	260,613	167,031	† 93,582	25·05	18·86	† 6·19
Allora ...	9,910	8,124	† 1,786	253,326	182,075	† 71,251	25·56	22·41	† 3·15
Gatton ...	8,814	7,774	† 1,040	213,116	149,471	† 63,645	24·18	19·23	† 4·95
Dugandan ...	7,300	7,700	* 400	203,538	221,785	* 18,247	27·88	28·80	* 0·92
Highfields ...	5,470	5,427	† 43	169,261	159,721	† 9,540	30·94	29·43	† 1·51
Marburg ...	5,150	5,414	* 264	112,937	112,322	† 615	21·93	20·75	† 1·18
Harrisville ...	3,915	4,461	* 546	116,229	120,833	* 4,604	29·69	27·09	† 2·60
Rosewood ...	3,894	3,141	† 753	85,200	72,148	† 13,052	21·88	22·97	* 1·09
Killarney ...	4,663	3,010	† 1,653	117,170	98,907	† 18,263	25·13	32·86	* 7·73
Redcliffe ...	2,485	2,631	* 146	72,241	81,228	* 8,987	29·07	30·87	* 1·80
Beaudesert ...	2,587	2,623	* 36	88,917	86,499	† 2,418	34·37	32·98	† 1·39
Crow's Nest ...	2,427	2,577	* 150	76,304	74,143	† 2,161	31·44	28·77	† 2·67
Herberton ...	2,110	2,375	* 265	85,527	89,662	* 4,135	40·53	37·75	† 2·78
Ipswich ...	3,348	2,193	† 1,155	79,876	56,965	† 22,911	23·86	25·98	* 2·12
Esk ...	2,076	2,168	* 92	49,741	55,760	* 6,019	23·96	25·72	* 1·76
Nerang ...	1,790	1,952	* 162	63,289	72,859	* 9,570	35·36	37·33	* 1·97
Bundaberg ...	1,316	1,886	* 570	32,308	48,636	* 16,328	24·55	25·79	* 1·24
Tiaro ...	1,333	1,470	* 137	40,728	51,634	* 10,906	30·55	35·13	* 4·58
Gympie ...	1,210	1,439	* 229	39,044	33,246	† 5,798	32·27	23·10	† 9·17
Dalby ...	1,334	1,437	* 103	35,494	37,667	* 2,173	26·61	26·21	* 0·40
Logan ...	1,651	1,427	† 224	41,105	35,998	† 5,107	24·90	25·23	* 0·33
Cairns ...	1,142	1,295	* 153	56,058	45,963	† 10,095	49·09	35·49	† 3·60
Childers ...	886	1,067	* 181	28,241	29,234	* 993	31·87	27·40	† 4·47

Comparing the crop for 1897 with the total for 1896, it is seen that in no district last year did the area exceed 10,000 acres, and in none did the additional acreage planted amount to 600 acres. In 6 districts—namely, Laidley, Warwick, Toowoomba, Allora, Gatton, and Dugandan—the area sown exceeded or approximated very closely to 8,000 acres. The aggregate acreage and production in these districts amounted to 51,111 acres and 1,193,955 bushels, which were 47 per cent. and 43 per cent. of the total area and production respectively. An investigation of the columns relating to the average yield at once explains the cause in the relative contribution to area and produce. The highest averages usually obtain in the rich and, for the most part, more recently cultivated scrub lands of the Northern districts; and, although in 1897 the returns from some other districts approach more nearly to these than is frequently the case, yet the best average yield was found in Herberton, where 37·75 bushels to the acre were obtained. The second best return was at Nerang—namely, 37·33 bushels. Of the 6 principal maize districts already referred to, Warwick and Dugandan gave the satisfactory averages of 29·67 and 28·80 bushels respectively; but, on the other hand, only 18·86 and 19·23 bushels were garnered at Toowoomba and Gatton. The other districts, besides Herberton and Nerang, which returned mean yields exceeding 30 bushels over the total acreage planted, were: Cairns, 35·49 bushels; Tiaro, 35·13 bushels; Beaudesert, 32·98 bushels; Killarney, 32·86 bushels; and Redcliffe, 30·87 bushels.

It is much more satisfactory in making comparisons as to the average yields secured in different districts to include periods covering a series of years.

In the following table the mean average return for two consecutive quinquennial periods are compared with last year's crop:—

P.

Police District.	Petty Sessions District.	Average Yield per Acre.		
		Five Years ended 1890.	Five Years ended 1895.	Year 1897.
Allora	Allora	Bushels. 16'00	Bushels. 20'34	22'41
Brisbane	Brisbane	22'14	23'58	30'76
	Redcliffe			
	South Brisbane			
Bundaberg	Bundaberg	30'59	35'50	27'05
	Gin Gin			
Cairns	Cairns	40'75	34'37	35'49
Douglas	Douglas	44'23	31'09	20'88
Gatton	Gatton	19'22	21'61	20'29
	Laidley			
Gympie	Gympie	29'17	32'55	23'10
Highfields	Highfields	21'92	28'84	29'43
Ipswich	Ipswich	22'96	20'10	25'98
Logan... ..	Beaudesert	20'93	27'18	30'25
	Logan			
Marburg	Marburg	16'84	21'68	21'56
	Rosewood			
Maryborough	Maryborough	26'58	27'50	20'26
Normanby... ..	Dugandan	19'55	24'05	28'17
	Harrisville			
Tiaro	Tiaro	27'28	29'33	35'13
Toowoomba	Toowoomba	19'24	24'18	18'86
Warwick	Killarney	23'57	31'85	30'45
	Warwick			

The inquiry is of course limited to districts in which the area under maize is a substantial one. Owing to the changes in boundaries and the proclamation of new districts, some grouping has had to be adopted. Taking the mean of the two quinquennial periods as a standard, it will be seen that the crop for 1897 was a most favourable one around Brisbane, Logan, Normanby, and Tiaro; a good one at Allora, Highfields, Ipswich, and Warwick, and a fair one at Marburg and Rosewood. A slight decrease was apparent at Cairns and at Gatton, a still further one at Toowoomba, whilst at Bundaberg, Douglas, Gympie, and Maryborough the season was most unsatisfactory. In the Wide Bay district drought was severely felt.

RICE (Paddy).—No progress was made with the cultivation of rice last year. There were only 445 acres sown, yielding 12,990 bushels, or an average of 29'19 bushels per acre. The cultivation of this cereal has never yet been attempted in such a way as to prove profitable with well-paid labour. It was believed that a variety of upland rice could be grown, which, doing away with the necessity for planting on swampy land, would enable the cultivation to be carried out on scientific methods with modern agricultural implements. Failing the planting of such a variety, these could only be used where the conditions allowed of regular irrigation, so that the land could be made available for ploughing at the proper season.

The results of this crop for the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Q.

Year.	Acres.	Bushels.	Average Bushels.
1893	789	32,043	40'61
1894	650	24,866	38'26
1895	716	19,245	26'88
1896	600	20,528	34'21
1897	445	12,990	29'19

It will be seen that the acreage and the production last year were the lowest of any year of the quinquennium, although the average yield was better than in 1895.

Naturally, as rice is a tropical plant, the most successful experience in connection with its cultivation is obtained in the Northern portion of the colony. The districts in which it was planted last year, together with the results, are given in the following table:—

R.

District.	Position in the Colony.	Area Planted.	Quantity Produced.	Average Yield per Acre.
		Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Cairns	Northern Division, East of Coast Range	232	7,162	30'87
Cook	" " " "	59	1,428	24'20
Douglas	" " " "	109	3,529	32'38
Mackay	" " " "	13	89	6'85
Mourilyan	" " " "	1	60	60'00
Somerset	" " " "	4	30	7'50
Herberton	" " West of Coast Range	13	284	21'85
Logan	Southern Division, East of Main Range	12	401	33'42
Nerang	" " " "	2	7	3'50
TOTAL		445	12,990	29'19

Ninety per cent. of the total area was provided by the three districts of Cairns, Douglas, and Cook. (The average yield in the latter district was considerably less than in the other two.) From a very small area—1 acre—a yield of 60 bushels was obtained; the next best average was on the Logan, where from 12 acres a mean return of 33·42 bushels was secured. As 7,839,293 lb. of rice, representing a considerably larger quantity of paddy, was imported during 1897, valued at £44,204, and facing a duty of 1d. per lb., it will readily be seen that there is scope for a much larger production of this cereal, if only means could be devised for raising it under conditions favourable to economic working.

RYE.—This grain is hardly to be considered a cereal crop, as it is chiefly sown for hay and green forage, the produce of the small area reaped for grain being principally used for seed, although small quantities are used as a breadstuff and as feed for poultry.

The acreage reaped for grain, the bushels produced, and the average yield obtained for each of the past five years, are shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Acres.	Yield, Bushels.	Average per Acre, Bushels.
1893	496	9,479	19·11
1894	283	5,251	18·55
1895	202	4,169	20·64
1896	345	7,449	21·59
1897	470	8,329	17·72

There was a smaller area sown in 1897 than in 1893, although more than in either of the other three years. The average yield obtained was below that of any year in the quinquennium.

ENGLISH POTATOES.—The area planted with this tuber in 1897—8,197 acres—was more than was utilised in the preceding year; but as a somewhat poorer return was obtained, the additional production was trifling, the 18,520 tons bagged only exceeding the crop for 1896 by 69 tons.

The acreage, production, and average yield for each of the past five years were as follow:—

Year.	Acreage.	Production, Tons.	Average Yield, Tons.
1893	8,306	17,165	2·07
1894	10,523	28,185	2·68
1895	9,240	19,027	2·06
1896	7,672	18,451	2·40
1897	8,197	18,520	2·26

Although the average obtained in 1897 was exceeded in 1894 and 1896, it was but little below the mean of the averages of the five years.

In view of the large quantities of potatoes which are imported into the colony each year, it is most surprising that a larger area is not planted to secure the market for the Queensland farmer. The 15,756 tons introduced last year fell but little short of the quantity raised, so that 46 per cent. of the total consumption was provided for by a foreign producer, and £61,102 were lost to the agricultural interest, and this in the face of a protective duty of 15s. per ton.

SWEET POTATOES.—This root is principally utilised as food for live stock, although considerable quantities are in demand on the sugar plantations for rations for the Pacific Islanders employed. It is also used to some extent as a vegetable amongst the white agricultural community, but has not been hitherto much appreciated by urban residents. The English potato, however, having been condemned in all cases of dyspepsia by medical authorities, this may, perhaps, have occasioned a larger use of the sweet potato. The area planted in 1897—3,581 acres—exceeded that for 1896 (when only 3,131 acres were planted) by 450 acres, and as the average yield in the former year was 4·88, against 4·57 tons in the latter, there was an increase in production equal to 22 per cent., the output being 14,322 tons in 1896 and 17,466 tons in the following year.

COTTON.—This plant is practically once again out of cultivation. Until some mechanical means of gathering the crop is discovered, it seems improbable that it will ever assume importance. In 1892, under the impetus given by the establishment of a cotton factory, larger areas were planted, but this has failed to be maintained, and the industry has again sunk into insignificance. There were 48 acres under cotton in 1897, yielding 19,977 lb. of unginned cotton, or an average of 416 lb. per acre.

SUGAR.—Although the cultivation of wheat is rapidly assuming great importance, the production of sugar is by far the first of the agricultural industries.

The final figures obtained from a compilation of the returns for 1897 show but little change on those for 1896, except with regard to the area under cane, which was 15,548 acres greater in 1897 than in the previous year. The area crushed was, on the other hand, slightly less—namely, by 1,208 acres—and the total production by 2,858 tons, thus showing practically the same average return to each acre. The following table affords the opportunity for a comparison of the sugar crops for the years 1896 and 1897:—

S.

Year.	Area under Cane for Sugar.	Area Crushed.	Total Yield.	Average Yield per Acre.
	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.
1896	83,093	66,640	100,774	1·51
1897	98,641	65,432	97,916	1·50
Increase in 1897	15,548	...	...	...
Decrease in 1897	...	1,208	2,858	0·01

The area under cane for sugar during 1897 was 98,641 acres; 65,432 acres were crushed, and 98,641 tons of sugar were obtained, the average yield for each acre being 1·50 tons.

Although the season of 1897 was not a satisfactory one, especially in some districts, yet the average obtained was not conspicuously below the means of a number of years; and one of the most serious of the pests which have affected the sugar-cane in recent years—namely, the grub of the cockchafer beetle—was not nearly so much in evidence in some districts, a consequence of the united and systematic war that has been waged against it. It is not the productive, but the political-commercial aspect, that is chiefly fraught with such grave elements bearing on the well-being of the Queensland sugar industry. Notwithstanding the employment of great care in the cultivation of the cane, and the introduction of the most approved machinery, and the greatest scientific knowledge and skill in the manufacture of the sugar, the producers find themselves face to face with the fact that the price obtainable for the article they turn out is just about equal to the cost of production; sometimes, under favourable conditions, returning a profit, and sometimes not.

If this result were due to the manufacture of the sugar more cheaply elsewhere, the position, as against the Queensland producer, would be unanswerable; but as the low price is brought about by the fiscal policy of the Governments of some of the countries of Europe, it is not unnatural that the sugar-planters of this colony ask for a policy of protection against the results of the bonus paid on the beet sugars produced and exported from continental Europe, and that a cry for "countervailing duties" has been raised.

It was hoped by many that the Imperial Royal Commission appointed to deal with the subject of the decadence of the sugar industry in the West Indies, would recommend a policy of this nature, but instead its report embodied a suggestion of direct assistance to the West Indian planters, and this has been given effect to. The Home Government have so far declined to adopt a policy of retort, although it has been intimated that the necessity for some action of this nature might ultimately arise. The best hope of relief from the effects of the beet sugar bonus would appear to lie in securing, through diplomatic agency, a modification at least, if not the abandonment, of this policy of protection by the countries concerned. A spirit of strong opposition to the bounties is growing amongst the inhabitants of these countries, and the feeling would appear to be gaining ground that the many are being taxed for the benefit of the few, and in addition the producers are themselves beginning to realise that the very taxes required to raise the funds to provide the bonus are so enormously advancing the price of sugar as to grievously limit the consumption in the country of production. This change of feeling with respect to this policy has been further augmented by the adoption of countervailing duties by the United States, so that even in France, where the advocates for a continuance of protection are strongest, symptoms are not wanting of a weakening in this respect.

An International Conference has recently been held at Brussels to consider the whole question, at which it has been announced that Great Britain would be represented. The conference was indefinitely adjourned, to the great disappointment of those to whom the matter was of vital importance. A sugar conference is also to be held in London, at which Queensland will be represented. In the meantime it behoves the Queensland farmer and manufacturer to unite in producing cane sugar as cheaply as possible.

The Queensland Government, through the Agent-General, have urged upon the Imperial Secretary of State for the Colonies the imposition of countervailing duties in the interests of cane sugar, should the results of the Brussels International Conference be productive of no relief.

Producers of cane sugar appear confident that they could easily maintain their position against beet sugar, if indeed they could not exclude it altogether from the market, but for the special conditions under which it is manufactured and marketed. Great progress has been made in the economic production of beet sugar during the past years, not only in the manufacture, but in the cultivation of the sugar beet; and there is no doubt that the conditions have changed since it was found necessary either to grant protection or to witness the collapse of the beet sugar industry. Great advance has also been made during the same period with respect to cane sugar. Whether the improvement has been greater on the part of the beet or the cane could only be authoritatively determined by the production of both upon an equal footing commercially. The opportunity for such a test in these colonies, or for something approaching to it, is about to be afforded, as the production of beet sugar—no longer as an experiment—on a thoroughly commercial basis is now in progress. At Maffra, in Gippsland, in Victoria, a large manufactory has been erected at a cost of from £60,000 to £70,000, and is at work putting through about 300 tons of roots per diem. There are nearly 2,000 acres under crop in the neighbourhood, but owing to late planting and dry weather only about two-thirds of that area are available for this season's diffusing. The average yield of root is expected to be about 20 tons per acre, but as a consequence of the drought only from 12 to 14 tons are being obtained. In New South Wales, at Tenterfield, steps are also being taken to start the systematic and extensive cultivation of the sugar beet, but matters have not attained anything like the progress evidenced in Victoria.

At Table No. XV. in the Appendix will be found full particulars as to the area planted with sugar-cane in the various districts of the colony, and the results secured, showing not only the products obtained from the acreage crushed, but also the different areas, the crop of which was otherwise dealt with. It has been found necessary to group some of the districts, as it has proved impossible to locate the sugar to the district where the cane was grown, owing to the extension of the practice of carrying the primary and secondary products—the cane and the juice—to places outside the district of cultivation, for manipulation into the final product. In addition to the area shown in this table, which relates to the cultivation of cane in connection with the production of sugar only, there were nearly 1,000 acres of land planted with sugar-cane for purposes of green food for live stock, nine-tenths of which was grown in the Southern division. This is included with, and will be treated under, fodder crops. There were also, as will be seen from the above table, 1,783 acres returned as reserved for the purpose of providing sets to plant either new ground or land which had been cut sufficiently long as ratoon and wanted replanting. Taken at 12 tons of cane to the acre, the average obtained from the area crushed last year, this gives 21,396 tons of cane used as sets. Allowing for the 15,000 additional acres planted in 1897 compared with 1896, and assuming that the average of the area crushed during the past two years—say, 66,000 acres—has to be replanted every third year, an area of 37,000 acres to be planted is

arrived at, so that about 0·57, or rather more than half a ton of sets, are apparently required to plant each acre of land. The area set apart for plants compared to the total area for sugar was greater in the Northern division than in the Southern.

Out of the total area of land under cane for sugar—namely, 98,641 acres—31,426, or nearly one-third, was chiefly comprised under the terms “newly planted,” or “stand-over cane”. There was rather a larger proportion of newly planted and stand-over land in the Northern than in the Southern division—namely, 34 and 29 per cent. of the total areas respectively. Cairns and Port Douglas in the North will probably, during the current season, contribute more largely, as compared with the past year, to the area crushed, than other districts; the proportion of newly planted and stand-over cane in this group being 51 per cent. of the total area.

The weight of cane returned as taken off the 65,432 acres crushed was 804,815 tons, or an average of 12·3 tons off each acre. With respect to the tonnage of cane obtained, great differences are found in the returns of the various districts. In the Northern division the average was 13·8 tons, in the South 10·6 tons, and in the Central 10·3 tons. In the five sugar districts, or group of districts in the first-named division, the returns per acre were:—Ingham and Mourilyan, 20·0 tons; Bowen, 18·8 tons; Ayr, 16·6 tons; Cairns and Douglas, 11·3 tons; and Mackay, 9·9 tons. In the South, in the three chief districts or groups were obtained crops of 13·2 tons, 9·1 tons, and 8·7 tons—namely, Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro; Logan; and Bundaberg and Gin Gin, respectively.

The return of molasses given in the table, as explained in the footnote, falls much short of the actual production as in a number of instances this by-product is not saved; so that the amount recorded is most probably the quantity put to profit, either for the distillation or for conversion into treacle as an article of diet.

The experience of the past two sugar seasons in the various districts of the colony are compared in the following table:—

T.

Petty Sessions District.	Cultivation.			Production.					
	Area in 1896.	Area in 1897.	Increase or Decrease in 1897.	1896.		1897.		Increase or Decrease in 1897.	
				Area Crushed.	Produce.	Area Crushed.	Produce.	Area Crushed.	Produce.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.						
Ayr	6,089	6,510	421	4,515	6,146	4,404	8,236	—111	2,090
Bowen	692	1,102	410	...	...	582	1,350	582	1,350
Bundaberg and Gin Gin ...	20,458	23,305	2,847	19,489	28,141	16,139	16,999	—3,350	—11,142
Cairns	3,124	4,701	1,577	1,857	2,932	2,319	4,077	462	1,145
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	13,619	15,253	1,634	10,531	21,000	10,936	13,867	405	—7,133
Ingham	7,180	8,331	1,151	6,005	11,938	6,198	15,529	193	3,591
Logan	1,656	1,585	—71	1,656	2,058	1,007	765	—649	—1,293
Mackay	21,076	27,251	6,175	16,428	16,515	16,794	22,604	366	6,089
Marburg	637	940	303	440	733	610	300	170	—433
Maroochy and Gympie ...	178	913	735	178	178	544	963	366	785
Mourilyan	5,083	4,495	—588	4,167	8,645	3,527	9,345	—640	700
Nerang	1,220	1,015	—205	651	910	761	812	110	—98
Port Douglas	1,208	2,048	840	...	...	911	2,264	911	2,264
Rockhampton	773	1,192	419	690	1,550	700	805	10	—745
Elsewhere	100	...	—100	33	28	...	...	—33	—28
Totals, 1896	83,093	...	...	66,640	100,774	...	...	...	...
Totals, 1897 ... ..	...	98,641	...	...	...	65,432	97,916	...	...
Increase in certain Districts, 1897 ... ..	...	...	16,512	...	...	...	...	3,575	18,014
Decrease in certain Districts, 1897 ... ..	...	...	964	...	...	...	...	4,783	20,872
Net Increase in 1897 ... ..	...	...	15,548	...	...	...	...	...	...
Net Decrease in 1897 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208	2,858

Dealing first with the area under cane for sugar, three of the districts returned by name showed a smaller area in 1897 than in 1896. The largest decrease was in Mourilyan, and amounted to 588 acres, or rather more than one-tenth of the total area in the district. The most substantial increase was in Mackay, where 6,175 additional acres were under cane. The other increases exceeding 1,000 acres were:—Bundaberg and Gin Gin, 2,847 acres; Childers, &c., 1,634 acres; Cairns, 1,577 acres; and Ingham, 1,151 acres. Besides these, Port Douglas, with an increase of 840 acres on 1,208 acres, which was the area under cane in 1896, made a greater relative progress than any other district; amounting as it did to 70 per cent. on the figures for the previous year. The area planted would not be so greatly influenced by the dry weather which prevailed as the area crushed and the return obtained. Many of the districts were affected by the drought. At Bundaberg and Childers the effects were very severely felt, whilst the remarks on the returns record much complaint from the same cause in Maryborough, Mackay, and Cairns. The effects of the dry weather would appear to have been less pronounced in Tiaro, Bowen, Townsville, and Douglas. Four districts recorded a reduced acreage put through the mill, aggregating 4,783 acres, of which 3,350 were contributed by Bundaberg and Gin Gin. The district contributing the largest increase to the area crushed was Port Douglas, with 911 acres. The greatest decline in production was found in the Bundaberg-Gin Gin group, where there was 11,142 tons less sugar turned out in 1897 than in 1896. The Childers, Maryborough, Tiaro group followed with a decrease of 7,133 tons. The largest increase in the output of sugar was at Mackay, where production amounted to 22,604 tons in 1897, against 16,515 in 1896, an advance of 6,089 tons. There were also substantial increases at Ingham, Port Douglas, and Ayr.

Considerable differences as to the relation between the area crushed and the sugar produced are to be found when the figures for individual districts are compared with one another. This is illustrated by the following statement, which shows the average return of sugar obtained from each acre crushed in the several more important districts of the colony :—

AVERAGE YIELD, ETC.						
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896	1897	
Ayr	1.84	2.57	1.61	1.36	1.87	
Bundaberg	1.71	1.50	1.48	1.47	1.05	
Gin Gin ... ..	...	...	0.10	1.18		
Cairns	1.25	1.75	1.89	1.58	1.76	
Childers ... ..	...	...	1.71	2.20	1.27	
Maryborough	2.18	2.09	2.00	1.11		
Tiaro ... ..	...	...	...	1.39		
Ingham	2.26	2.72	1.86	1.99	2.51	
Logan	1.23	1.25	0.96	1.24	0.76	
Mackay	1.79	1.79	1.47	1.01	1.35	
Mourilyan	1.36	1.49	1.61	2.08	2.65	

The best yield was obtained at Mourilyan, where a return of more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons to each acre was secured, whilst the poorest was on the Logan, where the output only averaged $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, or three-tenths of that at Mourilyan. The results realised at Ingham were but little inferior to those at Mourilyan, and as these two districts together crushed the produce of nearly 10,000 acres, they contributed largely to counteract the indifferent returns obtained elsewhere. There were, however, some complaints received as to the mischief resulting from grubs. This pest, if neglected, is capable of producing much disaster, and it is to be hoped that it will in its early stages be vigorously dealt with.

Dry weather seems to have affected the whole of the districts, with the exception of Mourilyan and Ingham, but more especially in the Southern portion of the colony; the worst effects of the drought being experienced within the Wide Bay area. Cairns and Ayr both gave satisfactory average returns of $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons per acre and upwards, whilst that for Bundaberg and Gin Gin only just exceeded 1 ton; Mackay and the Maryborough group returning somewhat better yields of $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons respectively.

A great impetus has been given to the sugar industry by the passing of "*The Sugar Works Guarantee Acts, 1893 to 1895.*" These comprise two statutes. The amendment passed in 1895 is of an interpretative and limitative nature chiefly, although also dealing to some extent with administration and matters of account. The original measure passed in 1893 (57 Vic. No. 18) provides that the Government may, on the application of an incorporated company, guarantee its debentures with interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the proceeds to be devoted to the erection of works for the extraction of sugar, taking as a protection against loss, a mortgage over the works and over freehold land in the vicinity. This measure has been largely availed of, and has opened to the sugar industry important areas of land that would have remained for a long time unutilised for sugar cultivation, had the means for manufacturing been dependent on unaided private enterprise.

A sum of £360,000 has been advanced to twelve different companies for the purposes of the Act, mortgages being held by the Crown over the different works as well as over 108,895 acres of freehold land to be cultivated in connection therewith.

The establishment of most of these factories has taken place during a period not particularly favourable to sugar production, so that the results, although perhaps short of what was by many anticipated, may for the most part be regarded with much hope. The present season (1898) promises to be a very fine one for the sugar-planter, and may be expected to establish most of these industries on a sound financial basis.

The output for the present year has been estimated at from 150,000 to 160,000 tons. In view of the amount of land under cane at the end of 1897, the average yield will require to be an exceptional one, and the area allowed to stand over to the following season much below that of the past few years if these anticipations are to be realised; but the information to hand from nearly every district points to a most favourable campaign.

The Colonial Sugar Company are, moreover, only offering to take the sugars of certain mills in the area comprised by Bundaberg, Isis, and Maryborough on somewhat stringent conditions. They have issued a circular to manufacturers of raw sugars, stating that they are prepared to pay £8 5s. per ton with bonus on the same conditions as in 1897, on the condition that makers of whites and yellows will only place 35,000 tons upon the markets of Australasia, exporting the residue of their stocks to foreign markets. The manufacturers demur to this demand, but would be willing to combine to export *pro rata* to foreign markets the excess of production over Australasian requirements. Canada has also just passed a tariff affording preferential duties in favour of sugars the produce of the British Dominion.

The imports and exports of sugar during last year amounted to 47 tons and 62,418 tons respectively. The net export deducted from the production would give a consumption of 35,545 tons, or 166 lb. *per capita* of the mean population, taken upon the figures of the individual year. This shows how misleading it would be to estimate consumption on such a basis, as figures of previous years have shown a demand of from 20,000 to 25,000 tons only for local requirements.

The breweries and jam factories consume an increasing quantity of this commodity, the latter alone requiring not less than 2,000 tons at the lowest estimate.

ARROWROOT.—A large proportion of the root of the plant from which Queensland arrowroot is prepared (*Canna edulis*) is grown for pig feed. There has been for many years an increasing quantity thus utilised, and it was considered that it was no longer advisable to continue the practice hitherto adopted of converting, for the purposes of the returns, the root so used into the terms of the arrowroot of commerce. At the same time it was practically impossible to separate the areas, the produce of which

was thus put to different uses. For 1897 and in future years, therefore, the yield will be given in tons of root, and the quantity of arrowroot made from a portion of such root be collected as forming a separate industry.

For convenience of comparison, the produce of this crop for 1895 and 1896 has also been converted on an approved basis back into tons of root, and particulars respecting the arrowroot crop for the past three years are given in the following statement :—

Year.	Acres.	Produce, Tons of Tuber.	Average Yield, Tons.
1895	194	1,289	6.65
1896	309	2,603	8.42
1897	391	2,888	7.39

The actual quantity of the arrowroot of commerce turned out at the various arrowroot mills of the colony is, for the reasons above given, only available for 1897, when it amounted to 367,330 lb.

TOBACCO.—A marked decline in the cultivation of tobacco has been manifested during the past two years. This is a matter for regret, as large areas of the colony are well suited to the growth of the plant. A large and increasing market exists for the product within the colony, and where its cultivation and the drying of the leaf are well understood and properly carried out, the crop is a most profitable one. There were 1,061 acres under tobacco in 1895, 994 acres in 1896, and 755 acres in 1897. The importance of the industry has been so fully recognised by the Government that the services of a qualified tobacco expert have been secured from America by the Department of Agriculture to instruct planters as to the methods of cultivation and curing. From 7 cwt. to 8 cwt. of cured leaf per acre would appear to be the average crop in Queensland, taken over the whole area, although on three occasions during the past ten years upwards of 10 cwt. have been secured—namely, in 1888, 11.53 cwt.; in 1892, 11.97 cwt.; and in 1894, 10.46 cwt. The return from each acre last year was 7.55 cwt. The aggregate output for each of the four years was :—1894, 9,571 cwt.; 1895, 7,511 cwt.; 1896, 8,629 cwt.; and 1897, 5,703 cwt. Thus the production has declined 3,868 cwt. as compared with the crop for 1894.

The cultivation of this crop is practically confined to the western portion of the Southern division, in the districts of Texas, Inglewood, and Stanthorpe. These three districts comprised 748 acres, or 99 per cent. of the total area planted, and the results obtained with respect to the crops in each of these districts were as follow :—

	Acres.	Production, Cwt.	Average.
Texas	581	4,153	7.15
Inglewood	153	1,334	8.72
Stanthorpe... ..	14	196	14.00
	748	5,683	

The small area in the Stanthorpe district gave such an excellent return that it should certainly be the means of inducing a more extensive cultivation of this crop in that district.

Through inexperience many mistakes have been made by the planter, both as to cultivation and also as to the subsequent treatment of the leaf, and some of the growers have ceased to cultivate, but, encouraged by the advice of the Government expert, propose to again undertake the cultivation of tobacco. The quantity of all kinds which was imported last year was 760,156 lb., valued at £76,902.

COFFEE.—It is evident from the increasing attention given to the cultivation of this plant, that the production of the coffee bean is to take a prominent place amongst the industries of the colony. The great increase in the consumption throughout the world of this stimulant and tonic, decocted from the berry seeds of this tree, affords the assurance to the coffee-planter not only of a continuing but of an expanding market for his produce. The alkaloid that gives its peculiar properties to the stone or seed of the coffee berry is identical with that contained in the foliage of the tea shrub. It is found to possess the power of stimulating the brain and of acting as a stomachic tonic, thus allaying the effects of hunger and fatigue, and promoting digestion. Its consumption has increased by upwards of eight times within fifty years, chiefly amongst the inhabitants of continental Europe; whilst amongst citizens of the British Empire it is comparatively but little used. According to Mulhall, the following are the rates of *per capita* consumption :—Holland, 322 oz.; Belgium, 158 oz.; United States, 140 oz.; Switzerland, 114 oz.; Scandinavia, 110 oz.; United Kingdom, 14 oz. In Queensland, the consumption would appear to be less than one-half of that of the United Kingdom. South America, Java, and the West Indies are the chief countries of production, contributing about three-fourths of the total output.

The climate of nearly all the coastal districts of the colony is well adapted to the growth of the coffee-tree. Any area possessing rich soil of good depth, and well drained, with an easterly aspect, provided the degree of cold is never below the freezing point, would prove suitable. As there are plenty of localities from Brisbane northwards which would comply with these conditions, and as the returns obtained from an established coffee plantation are in excess, acre for acre, of many of the other objects of the farming industry, it is not surprising to find year by year a larger area planted.

There were 311 acres planted with coffee up to the end of 1897, of which 180 acres were productive, whilst in 1896 there was a total area of 138 acres only, an increase in the former year of 173 acres, or 125 per cent. From these figures it is evident that a considerable area in 1896 planted with coffee, but unproductive, was not definitely returned, being probably included under the heading garden and orchard, as the coffee plant does not bear for three years, and is not in its prime under six or seven years, whilst trees upwards of forty years old have been known to bear freely. This apparently occurred with respect to the districts of Cook, Mackay, and Maroochy.

All the land planted was to the east of the Great Dividing Range, 29 acres in the Southern division, 7 acres in the Central, and 275 acres in the Northern.

The gross yield obtained was 81,614 lb. of parchment in 1897, and 9,707 lb. in 1896, or an average of 453 lb. per acre off the productive area of 180½ acres, against 373 lb. per acre in 1896.

The following statement furnishes information respecting last year's coffee crop in each Petty Sessions District where it was planted :—

District.	Non-productive.		Productive.		Yield. Lb.	Average Yield per Acre of Productive Area. Lb.	
Maroochy	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	3,140	...	220
Maryborough	$\frac{3}{4}$	...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	827	...	158
St. Lawrence...	1	336	...	336
Rockhampton	3	...	3	500	...	167
Cairns	51	...	89	16,962	...	191
Cardwell	1	112	...	112
Cook	4	...	45 $\frac{1}{4}$	57,065	...	1,247
Douglas	13	...	...	...	...	...
Mackay	54	...	20	2,000	...	100
Mourilyan	1	672	...	672
Total	130 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	180 $\frac{1}{4}$	81,614	...	453

It will be seen that in a few of the districts where coffee-growing has been carried on for some time that large yields were obtained. In Cook a return of upwards of half a ton to each acre was garnered, whilst in Mourilyan an average yield of 672 lb. was secured.

As the coffee plant, although producing some fruit after the second or third year, is not in full bearing at that age, the general average of the colony is much reduced by areas which, although not entirely unproductive, are yet only just coming to maturity.

VINES.—Although there was a larger area under vines and a larger area bearing in 1897 than in 1896, yet, as the average return was a poorer one in the former than in the latter year, there were fewer grapes gathered last year than in 1896.

The results of the grape crop for each of the last two years are given in the following table :—

U.

Year.	Vineyards.			Grapes Gathered. Lb.	Average Yield. Lb.
	Acres Bearing.	Acres not Bearing.	Total.		
1896 ...	1,842	178	2,020	5,122,531	2,781
1897 ...	1,881	286	2,167	4,822,991	2,564

The vineyards were increased by 147 acres last year, but as 286 out of the 2,167 acres under vines were unproductive, the area bearing was only 39 acres more than in 1896. The average return obtained was rather more than 1 ton of grapes to each acre. The mean results from each acre bearing for the last three years, the period for which the yield of this crop has been collected in pounds of grapes only, were : 1895, 2,388 lb.; 1896, 2,781 lbs.; and 1897, 2,564 lb.

The following table gives for 1896 and 1897 detailed information respecting viticulture in each of the principal vine districts of the colony :—

V.

Petty Sessions District.	Area under Vines.								
	1896.			1897.			Increase + or Decrease— in 1897.	1896.	1897.
	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.		Grapes Gathered.	Grapes Gathered.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Lb.	Lb.
Roma ...	427	14	441	490	112	602	+ 161	1,411,560	1,058,408
Brisbane ...	154	4	158	134	6	140	— 18	332,433	334,713
Toowoomba ...	151	6	157	159	14	173	+ 16	836,823	826,391
Warwick ...	135	2	137	141	4	145	+ 8	494,165	402,331
South Brisbane ...	126	8	134	124	3	127	— 7	201,735	260,709
Logan ...	63	1	64	51	5	56	— 8	137,404	125,980
Gatton ...	57	3	60	60	18	78	+ 18	143,340	187,482
Maryborough ...	52	3	55	45	8	53	— 2	121,948	72,957
Ipswich ...	48	2	50	36	1	37	— 13	58,590	34,369
Highfields ...	43	1	44	42	1	43	— 1	218,520	156,718
Marburg ...	40	2	42	49	3	52	+ 10	126,870	149,260
Laidley ...	39	11	50	24	3	27	— 23	88,004	52,680
Allora ...	39	1	40	45	1	46	+ 6	98,733	153,128
Rockhampton ...	34	19	53	44	16	60	+ 7	64,530	47,202
Nerang ...	30	3	33	23	...	23	— 10	45,339	38,680
Gympie... ..	24	5	29	35	3	38	+ 9	32,892	43,440
Cleveland ...	25	1	26	16	3	19	— 7	37,966	46,038
Mitchell ...	21	3	24	23	1	24	...	42,390	49,060

By far the greatest increase in area was at Roma ; indeed, the additional acreage under the grape vine in that district exceeded the increase for the whole colony. Naturally, a large proportion of this area was as yet not bearing. Of other districts in which the area exceeded 100 acres, Toowoomba and Warwick showed a further acreage of 16 and 8 acres respectively, whilst Brisbane and South Brisbane both recorded a falling off.

The average returns obtained on the area bearing in the more important districts were :—

				1896.	1897.
				Average per Acre, Lb.	Average per Acre, Lb.
Toowoomba	...	...	...	5,542	5,197
Warwick	...	...	...	3,660	2,853
Brisbane	...	...	...	2,159	2,498
Roma	...	...	...	3,306	2,160
South Brisbane	...	...	...	1,601	2,102

From this it is evident that Toowoomba is *facile princeps* with respect to the yield. The poor yield obtained in Roma, particularly in 1897, although no doubt due largely to drought, was also contributed to by the relatively large area not very long planted, the vines on which, although bearing, were yet by no means sufficiently matured to return the full crop.

There was more wine and brandy made as the produce of a portion of the grapes grown in 1897 than there was in 1896, although last year the production was still short of that for 1895.

The following statement shows the number of winemakers and the quantity of wine and brandy made during each of the past five years :—

Year.								Number of Makers.	Wine Made.	Brandy Made.
									Gallons.	Gallons.
1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	466	101,528	664
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	567	176,497	917
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	661	238,208	1,259
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	704	170,733	767
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	723	207,945	994

The number of persons engaged in the manufacture of wine was greater in 1897 than in any other year of the quinquennium, and, except in 1895, an especially favourable year, the aggregate quantity of both wine and brandy obtained was greater.

The districts in which wine was made in larger quantities than 10,000 gallons were as follow :— Warwick, 44,252 gallons ; Toowoomba, 37,467 gallons ; Roma, 20,090 gallons ; Brisbane, 17,108 gallons ; South Brisbane, 13,023 gallons ; and Rosewood, 11,446 gallons.

A peculiarity in connection with Toowoomba is the large number of makers. There were 198 proprietors who contributed to the wine production of this district, whilst the larger quantity in Warwick was the output of 19 vigneron only. There were 44 districts in which wine was manufactured ; in only 6 of these was any brandy produced.

HAY.—The mean return per acre of all hay crops was rather above the average, falling only a little short of 2 tons to each acre. The area devoted to this purpose in 1897—namely, 48,220 acres—was much in excess of that for the previous year, when 35,764 only were mown. The output of hay for last year was 94,339 tons, or an average of 1·96 tons per acre.

The following table furnishes information as to the area mown and the return obtained from each kind of hay crop for the past two years :—

W.

Mown for Hay.								1896.		1897	
								Acres.	Average Yield per Acre.	Acres.	Average Yield per Acre.
									Tons.		Tons.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,845	0·92	5,898	1·33
Oats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,565	1·54	14,002	1·77
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282	1·78	291	1·88
Rye	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	427	1·68	702	1·98
Lucerne	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,892	2·34	23,362	2·26
Panicum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,673	1·91	3,791	1·78
Other Grasses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	1·70	174	1·64
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,764	1·95	48,220	1·96

Lucerne provides nearly one-half of the total area, and oats rather more than one-fourth. The increase in area in 1897 was—in lucerne, 5,470 acres ; wheat, 4,053 acres ; and oats, 2,437 acres. Wheat, oats, barley, and rye, all gave a larger average yield in 1897 ; whilst lucerne, panicum, and other grasses gave a poorer return.

GREEN FORAGE.—In 1897 there was a slightly larger area reserved for the supply of green fodder for cattle than in 1896, either as used fresh or in the form of ensilage. In this, again, lucerne stands first as a contributor, with 6,218 acres; whilst of sorghum, maize, oats, and barley, important acreages were devoted to this purpose. The number of acres of each kind of forage crop was as follows:—

	Acres.		Acres.
Wheat	326	Sugar-cane	973
Oats	2,298	Sorghum, &c.	3,635
Barley	1,591	Lucerne	6,218
Maize	2,505	Panicum	350
Rye	344	Other grasses	663
Total, 19,903 acres.			

With more knowledge and experience as to the great benefits which result from the storage of fodder in silos, this practice is likely to be extended, when increasing areas may be expected to be annually returned as cropped with the various suitable forage plants.

BANANAS.—The question of the existence of various diseases and pests in fruit, and other vegetable products has for some time been recognised as an important one, and in 1896 a measure was passed dealing with the matter. “*The Diseases in Plants Act of 1896*” provides for the prohibition of the import or removal of any plants or things likely to introduce any insect fungi or diseases. Inspectors are authorised to enter for the purpose of searching or examining for the same, and to order the owner to eradicate any disease, &c., and, failing this, have the same eradicated.

Little has up to the present been done to put this statute in force, except with respect to importations, although there is no doubt that in Queensland, in common with all countries where restrictive measures are not adopted at the site of production, many agricultural products, particularly fruits, are less free from diseases and pests of various kinds than is at all desirable; a few badly conducted orchards in a district going far to nullify the efforts put forth on better managed holdings. The subject has now, however, assumed prominence, owing to the action of the departments administering synonymous Acts in New South Wales and Victoria. During the past few months wholesale condemnations of Queensland fruits, particularly of bananas, have been made at both Sydney and Melbourne, although the action has been much more sweeping at the former port. That these colonies were right and wise in forbidding the introduction of any product that is either unfit for use or would be calculated to introduce a new disease or pest into the country must be conceded, but, as the pests complained of—the fruit fly and scale—are already firmly established in both the colonies in question, and as admittedly only portions of the cargo were affected, the utter condemnation of the whole has been taken exception to as unnecessarily drastic, and if continued would be calculated to have a marked effect on the fruit production in Queensland, and must result in greatly enhancing prices in the southern markets.

Owners might again consider whether it may not be possible to utilise their product by conversion into flour, as many medical men are agreed as to its good qualities as an article of diet; but the peculiar colour of the meal would appear to be the chief objection to its adoption. This difficulty might perhaps be removed, or the prejudice against its use on this account overcome.

There were 4,828 acres under bananas in 1897, an increase of 351 acres over 1896, and was the largest area ever returned under this crop. The production, however, fell short of that for the previous year, the figures being—17,059,124 dozen in 1896, and 16,494,604 dozen in 1897.

Particulars of the crop for the past two years in districts in which the area planted exceeded 50 acres were as follow:—

X.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase+ or Decrease— 1897.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	Area.	Quantity.
	Acres.	Acres.	Dozen.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Brisbane	142	152	170,740	179,628	+ 10	+ 8,888
Cairns	1,778	1,709	8,172,900	7,928,662	— 69	— 244,238
Cleveland	336	315	505,884	476,316	— 21	— 29,568
Cook	55	64	75,370	74,900	+ 9	— 470
Douglas	32	54	52,546	41,985	+ 22	— 10,561
Logan	293	446	390,613	1,621,050	+ 153	+ 1,230,437
Maroochy	264	442	359,318	648,841	+ 178	+ 289,523
Maryborough	114	125	104,159	86,253	+ 11	— 17,906
Mourilyan	1,113	1,186	6,745,980	5,165,810	+ 73	— 1,580,170
Somerset	110	109	14,304	12,794	— 1	— 1,510

Sixty per cent. of the area and 79 per cent. of the production were contributed by two districts—Cairns and Mourilyan. Additional areas exceeding 100 acres were planted in Maroochy and Logan. The largest decrease was in Cairns, where there were 69 acres less under bananas in 1897 than in 1896.

PINEAPPLES.—There was a larger area under pineapples in 1897 than in any year since 1892. The results obtained from the 909 acres planted, although yielding a better return than in 1896, fell a long way short of the average of the previous five years. There were 351,524 dozen pineapples gathered, which exceeded the number for the preceding year by 37,689.

The results of this crop for the past two years, with respect to the districts where pineapples are chiefly grown, are shown in the following table:—

Y.

District.	1896.		1897.		Increase + or — Decrease.	
	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Brisbane	435	194,310	465	196,413	+ 30	+ 2,103
Cairns	67	13,670	68	17,596	+ 1	+ 3,926
Charters Towers	16	5,195	27	6,740	+ 11	+ 1,545
Cleveland	26	3,562	57	56,213	+ 31	+ 52,651
Cook	34	4,210	18	3,680	- 16	- 530
Croydon	8	2,827	6	962	- 2	- 1,865
Douglas	20	6,726	23	2,840	+ 3	- 3,886
Logan	43	21,185	54	12,843	+ 11	- 8,342
Maryborough	18	7,320	18	4,113	...	- 3,207
Maroochy	18	3,385	23	2,676	+ 5	- 709
Mourilyan	10	2,750	18	5,060	+ 8	+ 2,310
Rockhampton	15	3,477	18	4,508	+ 3	+ 1,031

Croydon has been included in the table for the reason that, although the area is small, the district represents a locality outside the ordinary limits of agriculture. In 1897 the return obtained was not satisfactory, but in the previous year the average yield exceeded that of several other districts, which, from a climatic standpoint, might be considered more advantageously located. Brisbane comprises more than half—51 per cent.—of the total area under pineapples. The acreage for 1897 included an addition of 30 acres over the area for 1896. This was exceeded in one district—Cleveland—where 31 acres of newly planted land were returned. The average yield in Brisbane was 422 dozen per acre, which was a considerable improvement on the mean of 387 dozen secured over the whole colony. The best return was obtained at Cleveland, where 56,213 dozen of the fruit were gathered off 57 acres, or an average yield per acre of 986 dozen; one plantation of 15 acres returning a mean yield of 3,333 dozen. A small export trade in this fruit, in a preserved state, would appear to be developing.

ORANGES.—A marked increase in the acreage devoted to the cultivation of the orange has been apparent during the past ten years, having advanced from 992 acres in 1887 to 2,196 last year. The export trade in oranges has for some years been a growing one, and unless some modification of the recently instituted practice of wholesale condemnation at southern ports takes place, the opportunities for securing a market there will be seriously curtailed, although the outlook for the export of citrus fruits to Europe is more promising; but fruit for this purpose requires to be carefully graded, of the best quality, and free from even the suspicion of disease.

The production last year of 1,628,176 dozen, although larger than in 1896, fell short of that for the preceding four years, and the average return was the poorest obtained since 1890. There were 152 orangeries, of a greater or less extent, contributing to the production of this fruit during 1897. As the orange tree does not bear for the first few years of its life, the lower averages of the past two years are no doubt due in part to the inclusion of young orangeries into the area. During 1897 this fruit returned an average of 741 dozen per acre.

A comparison of the crop for the past two years in some of the more important districts is afforded by the following table:—

Z.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase + or Decrease — in 1897.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	Area.	Production.
	Acres.	Acres.	Dozen.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Bowen	99	121	78,798	93,384	+ 22	+ 14,586
Brisbane	76	78	66,466	70,867	+ 2	+ 4,401
Bundaberg	48	45	37,950	37,370	- 3	- 580
Caboolture	24	46	7,904	9,357	+ 22	+ 1,453
Cairns	81	127	107,430	225,960	+ 46	+ 118,530
Cardwell	59	70	72,300	52,400	+ 11	+ 19,900
Charters Towers	23	37	8,708	28,900	+ 14	+ 20,192
Cleveland	78	100	54,720	75,544	- 22	+ 20,824
Cook	49	55	35,085	30,324	+ 6	- 4,761
Douglas	83	89	50,090	58,257	+ 6	+ 8,167
Gatton	120	129	33,303	95,880	+ 9	+ 62,077
Gympie	34	45	14,714	13,130	+ 1	- 1,584
Herberton	23	16	19,270	23,950	- 7	+ 4,680
Logan	42	64	16,040	32,800	+ 22	+ 16,760
Maroochy	76	234	30,057	58,958	+ 158	+ 28,901
Maryborough	222	209	186,999	157,793	- 13	- 29,206
Nerang	104	145	62,350	97,248	+ 41	+ 34,898
Redcliffe	59	44	23,131	21,630	- 15	- 1,501
Rockhampton	74	104	55,370	133,867	+ 39	+ 78,497
Roma	22	28	102,343	31,412	+ 6	- 70,931
South Brisbane	29	36	10,984	19,980	+ 7	+ 8,996
Tiaro	30	30	20,349	17,824	...	- 2,525
Toowoomba	54	47	39,370	30,020	- 7	- 9,350
Townsville	34	30	77,750	7,540	- 4	- 70,210

Some very notable additions were made to the areas in certain districts. The most prominent of these districts was Maroochy, where, from an area of 76 acres in 1896, it increased to 234 in 1897. With so large a proportion of young trees it is not surprising to find a comparatively small addition to the production of fruit in that district last year. Other districts in which important additional areas were planted were—Cairns, 46; Nerang, 41; Rockhampton, 30; and Bowen, Caboolture, Cleveland, and Logan, each 22.

Cairns, Maryborough, and Rockhampton were the districts having the largest outputs, and together they aggregated 517,620 dozen, or 32 per cent. of the total production.

OTHER CROPS.—During 1895 and 1896 there was a great increase on the areas returned under "Other Crops," although there was a smaller acreage so recorded in 1896 than in 1895. The decadence of the past two years is perhaps partly explained by a nearly corresponding increase in the area returned under "Garden and Orchard." When the collection of statistics is dependent on non-experts, it is difficult to secure uniformity of practice in matters of detail, and the question being left to the discretion of the proprietor, he is given to enter the subject matter of the return under the definite or the indefinite head, according as the year's return has been a satisfactory one or not.

There were 3,410 acres comprised in the various crops, for which a special line is not provided on the agricultural schedules. As the general table of agriculture will not, for want of space, admit of these being detailed, they are therefore included in one column, and a special table (No. XIV.), giving full particulars, is included in the Appendix. They are there grouped into three divisions—"Other Fruits," "Other Vegetables," and "Other Miscellaneous Crops."

For 1897, the first of these embraced 1,337 acres; the second, 1,935 acres; and the third, 138 acres.

OTHER FRUITS.—The following particulars include the more important of these:—Cocoanuts, 510 acres, 5,050 dozens; mangoes, 235 acres, 358,315 dozens; melons, 124 acres, 13,286 dozens; gooseberries, 108 acres, 48,630 quarts; apples, 86 acres, 43,401 dozens; plums, 53 acres, 1,192 bushels; lemons, 47 acres, 47,252 dozens; strawberries, 32 acres, 44,142 quarts.

OTHER VEGETABLES.—The chief of these were:—Pumpkins, 1,185 acres, for 4,501 tons; yams and taro, 201 acres, 51 tons; cabbages, 182 acres, 81,420 dozens; cucumbers, 103 acres, 51,862 dozens; tomatoes, 96 acres, 3,720 cwt.

In "Other Miscellaneous Crops," the only novelty was that of 2 acres of roses for perfume. As this is the first occasion on which such an item has appeared on the returns, it is a pity that no information as to results is available.

ARTIFICIALLY SOWN PASTURES.—The acreage of land planted with grasses and used for grazing varies greatly from year to year. This is due to the fact that such land may in one year be utilised for grazing, and in the next shut up for the purpose of being mown either for hay or to be used as green fodder away from the site of growth.

In 1897 there were 15,643 acres of sown pasture contributed by 44 districts. This was 3,683 acres more than in 1896.

There were 8 districts in which the area exceeded 500 acres—namely, Toowoomba, 3,891; Warwick, 3,526; Killarney, 1,594; Herberton, 898; Nerang, 634; Crow's Nest, 625; Maroochy, 615; and Cairns, 537 acres.

ENSILAGE.—The utilisation of fodder by means of the silo would appear at length to be gaining ground. More than twice as much ensilage was returned on the schedules for 1897 as in 1896.

Full information as to the districts in which not less than 40 tons were made last year is contained in the following statement:—

	Tons.
Allora	300
Brisbane	206
Harrisville	201
Gatton	87
Redcliffe	65
Caboolture	55
Gympie	55
Mackay	40
Tiaro	40
Fifteen other districts	148
Total	1,197

The foregoing Report has been drawn up by Mr. Weedon, Compiler of Statistics, and embodies the information obtained by the Department on the various subjects.

My signature is, in this instance, formal only, as I have only just assumed the office.

J. HUGHES, Registrar-General.

APPENDIX.

LIVE STOCK.

Table No. I.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of QUEENSLAND, on the 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Adavale	3,090	43,412	634,049	27	Ingham	4,698	17,245	596	488
Allora	5,674	17,353	66,961	2,306	Inglewood	2,372	18,553	69,571	225
Alpha	5,583	120,307	11,910	394	Ipswich	3,958	16,843	217	2,124
Aramac	1,990	25,445	311,942	35	Isisford	3,832	24,881	624,839	67
Augathella	2,079	45,129	153,068	27	Killarney	1,586	4,934	13	721
Ayr	4,219	13,663	115	943	Laidley	3,445	14,586	210	4,439
Banana	5,199	100,611	14,404	38	Logan	2,393	10,689	88	2,091
Barcaldine	3,606	13,983	927,913	138	Longreach	9,956	37,529	1,764,503	414
Beaudesert	5,483	46,074	348	6,248	Mackay	18,004	153,601	2,967	1,130
Biggenden	1,342	15,237	...	479	Marburg	1,765	6,974	22	3,246
Blackall	4,929	4,728	873,088	257	Marceba	850	1,494	1	141
Boulia	8,869	193,361	157,115	59	Maroochie	1,531	8,046	61	913
Bowen	9,401	136,790	310	619	Maryborough	5,869	21,838	291	1,586
Brisbane	6,781	13,891	1,892	4,250	Mitchell	6,053	100,434	157,486	206
Bundaberg	8,009	46,085	813	1,991	Mount Morgan	2,108	12,749	546	428
Burke	6,354	211,890	83	184	Mourilyan	536	626	...	413
Caboolture	1,228	6,961	45	1,439	Muttaborra	5,277	61,328	1,618,339	194
Cairns	1,943	3,134	76	1,124	Nanango	5,591	85,792	13,062	1,364
Camooewal	2,073	28,212	16,000	55	Nerang	2,520	11,013	179	3,353
Cape River	6,103	119,741	...	411	Norman	4,651	196,453	23,357	593
Cardwell	840	2,820	28	293	Palmer	1,399	28,948	60	140
Charleville	6,490	96,884	317,056	422	Ravenswood	2,390	22,368	20	492
Charters Towers	13,494	124,939	418	1,364	Redcliffe	1,933	11,054	6	3,018
Childers	1,655	3,675	818	782	Rockhampton	19,218	232,424	18,156	4,348
Clermont	11,989	183,884	630,376	661	Roma	6,441	85,873	208,630	667
Cleveland	534	1,716	114	427	Rosewood	2,807	17,607	303	3,346
Cloncurry	11,176	347,868	382,331	321	St. George	7,990	63,852	1,184,635	292
Condamine	2,145	27,699	20,731	182	St. Lawrence	6,645	142,594	5,482	436
Cook	3,764	21,544	3	607	Somerset	124	587	...	400
Crow's Nest	2,604	17,772	147	1,885	South Brisbane	3,663	8,442	493	1,690
Croydon	2,573	24,726	13	656	Springsure	8,557	147,188	259,827	273
Cunnamulla	6,612	79,977	1,267,146	278	Stanthorpe	1,990	16,788	65,999	388
Dalby	8,129	40,038	601,333	1,978	Surat	2,492	25,685	222,059	93
Diamantina	3,360	82,339	897	60	Tambo	3,876	28,390	446,378	52
Douglas	792	1,507	...	106	Taroom	7,031	140,770	31,408	33
Dugandan	3,561	22,889	257	4,025	Tenningering	1,707	21,454	80	442
Eidsvold	3,018	79,193	15,331	492	Texas	1,258	10,751	319	93
Emerald	2,628	41,469	142	287	Thargomindah	9,570	304,445	347,715	173
Esk	5,976	67,439	1,210	3,121	Thornborough	2,535	32,506	...	110
Etheridge	6,146	114,593	...	206	Tiaro	4,303	43,714	222	1,561
Eulo	1,845	50,831	174,726	34	Toowoomba	12,797	53,388	643,398	5,395
Gatton	5,366	21,556	543	5,284	Townsville	3,665	10,660	641	1,927
Gayndah	5,230	145,850	2,301	287	Warwick	8,459	40,385	186,546	4,153
Gin Gin	2,383	46,690	326	869	Windsorah	7,320	176,952	341,792	17
Gladstone	7,459	108,841	2,650	738	Winton	9,150	137,100	1,059,979	187
Goodna	620	2,357	81	426	Woodford	1,967	19,899	352	1,392
Goondiwindi	3,756	39,910	311,260	264	Yeulba	1,965	16,895	881	343
Gympie	5,649	60,010	2,175	2,367					
Harrisville	2,930	18,728	491	2,441	Totals for 1897	479,280	6,089,013	17,797,883	110,855
Herberton	5,154	54,875	268	745	Totals for 1896	452,207	6,507,377	19,593,696	97,434
Highfields	2,386	7,562	756	2,037					
Hughenden	15,049	295,056	1,359,017	584	Increase in 1897	27,073	...	...	13,421
Hungerford	1,265	1,442	233,072	5	Decrease in 1897 ... ..	...	418,364	1,795,813	...

Table No. II.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the SOUTHERN DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1896 and 1897, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Adavale	44,391	43,412	...	979	702,694	634,049	...	68,645
Allora	16,905	17,353	448	...	94,549	66,961	...	27,588
Augathella	46,688	45,129	...	1,559	346,401	153,068	...	193,333
Beaudesert	38,521	46,074	7,553	...	355	348	...	7
Biggenden	15,548	15,237	...	311	...	...	...	...
Brisbane	10,862	13,891	3,029	...	1,124	1,892	768	...
Bundaberg	51,974	46,085	...	5,889	722	813	91	...
Caboolture	6,862	6,961	99	...	46	45	...	1
Charleville	123,036	96,884	...	26,152	483,098	317,056	...	166,042
Childers	1,946	3,675	1,729	...	41	818	777	...
Cleveland	1,850	1,716	...	134	117	114	...	3
Condamine	22,820	27,699	4,879	...	9,155	20,731	11,576	...
Crow's Nest	16,641	17,772	1,131	...	201	147	...	54
Cunnamulla	86,260	79,977	...	6,283	1,338,803	1,267,146	...	71,657
Dalby	45,214	40,038	...	5,176	420,169	601,333	181,164	...
Diamantina (one-half)	49,164	41,169	...	7,995	1,187	448	...	739
Dugandan	20,966	22,889	1,923	...	359	257	...	102
Eidsvold	81,704	79,193	...	2,511	14,311	15,331	1,020	...
Esk	64,640	67,439	2,799	...	1,094	1,210	116	...
Eulo	54,538	50,831	...	3,707	193,567	174,726	...	18,841
Gatton	21,353	21,556	203	...	333	543	210	...
Gayndah	140,774	145,850	5,076	...	2,632	2,301	...	331
Gin Gin	46,730	46,690	...	40	324	326	2	...
Goodna	2,286	2,357	71	...	50	81	31	...
Goondiwindi	31,018	39,910	8,892	...	269,220	311,260	42,040	...
Gympie	53,168	60,010	6,842	...	2,545	2,175	...	370
Harrisville	19,958	18,728	...	1,230	568	491	...	77
Highfields	7,704	7,562	...	142	299	756	457	...
Hungerford	1,430	1,442	12	...	224,415	233,072	8,657	...
Inglewood	16,652	18,553	1,901	...	64,658	69,571	4,913	...
Ipswich	16,103	16,843	740	...	488	217	...	271
Killarney	4,476	4,934	458	...	128	13	...	115
Laidley	13,143	14,586	1,443	...	303	210	...	93
Logan	10,228	10,689	461	...	124	88	...	36
Marburg	6,529	6,974	445	...	35	22	...	13
Maroochy	6,933	8,046	1,113	...	20	61	41	...
Maryborough	20,076	21,838	1,762	...	162	291	129	...
Mitchell	132,824	100,434	...	32,390	170,833	157,486	...	13,347
Nanango	89,298	85,792	...	3,506	7,385	13,062	5,677	...
Nerang	9,889	11,013	1,124	...	63	179	116	...
Redcliffe	10,202	11,054	852	...	...	6	6	...
Roma	97,554	85,873	...	11,681	220,084	208,630	...	11,454
Rosewood	14,326	17,607	3,281	...	258	308	50	...
St. George	98,106	63,852	...	34,254	1,484,193	1,184,635	...	299,558
South Brisbane	8,823	8,442	...	381	1,338	493	...	845
Stanthorpe	17,827	16,788	...	1,039	57,716	65,999	8,283	...
Surat	37,523	25,685	...	11,838	268,015	222,059	...	45,956
Tambo	31,368	28,390	...	2,978	598,444	446,378	...	152,066
Taroom	155,698	140,770	...	14,928	18,500	31,408	12,908	...
Tenningering	19,408	21,454	2,046	...	533	80	...	453
Texas	8,698	10,751	2,053	...	269	319	50	...
Thargomindah	315,635	304,445	...	11,190	391,484	347,715	...	43,769
Tiaro	41,581	43,714	2,133	...	226	222	...	4
Toowoomba	53,315	53,888	73	...	743,201	643,398	...	99,803
Warwick	38,616	40,385	1,769	...	135,715	186,546	50,831	...
Windorah (one-half)	129,741	88,476	...	41,265	179,780	170,896	...	8,884
Woodford	18,971	19,899	928	...	50	352	302	...
Yeulba	16,997	16,895	...	102	188	881	693	...
	2,565,491	2,405,099	67,268	227,660	8,452,572	7,559,023	330,908	1,224,457

Net decrease in Cattle in the Division, 160,392.

Net decrease in Sheep in the Division, 893,549.

Table No. III.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the CENTRAL DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1896 and 1897, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alpha	118,514	120,307	1,793	...	3,316	11,910	8,594	...
Aramac	26,663	25,445	...	1,218	298,562	311,942	13,380	...
Banana	112,252	100,611	...	11,641	11,123	14,404	3,281	...
Barcaldine	15,106	13,983	...	1,123	1,070,660	927,913	...	142,747
Blackall	6,378	4,728	...	1,650	982,642	873,088	...	109,554
Boulia	254,895	193,361	...	61,534	106,489	157,115	50,626	...
Clermont	176,871	183,884	7,013	...	640,966	630,376	...	10,590
Diamantina (one-half)	49,165	41,170	...	7,995	1,188	449	...	739
Emerald	50,233	41,469	...	8,764	115	142	27	...
Gladstone	113,343	108,841	...	4,502	6,481	2,650	...	3,831
Isisford	22,231	24,881	2,650	...	841,318	624,839	...	216,479
Longreach	43,840	37,529	...	6,311	2,005,686	1,764,503	...	241,183
Mackay (Nebo collection, say six elevenths)	100,013	83,790	...	16,223	1,325	1,638	313	...
Mount Morgan	2,682	12,749	10,067	...	2	546	544	...
Muttaburra	60,831	61,328	497	...	1,694,104	1,618,339	...	75,765
Rockhampton	235,466	232,424	...	3,042	3,652	18,156	14,504	...
St. Lawrence	141,271	142,594	1,323	...	1,023	5,482	4,459	...
Springsure	186,662	147,188	...	39,474	283,571	259,827	...	23,744
Windsorah (one-half)	129,741	88,476	...	41,265	179,781	170,896	...	8,885
Winton	145,612	137,100	...	8,512	1,302,822	1,059,979	...	242,843
	1,991,769	1,801,858	23,343	213,254	9,434,826	8,454,194	95,728	1,076,360

Net decrease in Cattle in the Division, 189,911.

Net decrease in Sheep in the Division, 980,632.

Table No. IV.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprising the NORTHERN DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1896 and 1897, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ayr	22,541	13,663	...	8,878	1,035	115	...	920
Bowen	201,619	136,790	...	64,829	223	310	87	...
Burke	163,082	211,890	48,808	...	41	83	42	...
Cairns	1,729	3,134	1,405	...	156	76	...	80
Camooweal	24,722	28,212	3,490	...	21,053	16,000	...	5,053
Cape River	129,478	119,741	...	9,737	243	...	...	243
Cardwell	4,029	2,820	...	1,209	...	28	28	...
Charters Towers	143,505	124,939	...	18,566	227	418	191	...
Cloncurry	296,105	347,868	51,763	...	353,920	382,331	28,411	...
Cook	18,515	21,544	3,029	...	...	3	3	...
Croydon	19,619	24,736	5,117	...	2	13	11	...
Douglas	1,168	1,507	339	...	...	...	...	...
Etheridge	147,059	114,593	...	32,466	...	...	...	...
Herberton	57,820	54,875	...	2,945	549	268	...	281
Hughenden	297,859	295,056	...	2,803	1,304,368	1,359,017	54,649	...
Ingham	18,535	17,245	...	1,290	140	596	456	...
Mackay (less Nebo collection, say five elevenths)	83,345	69,811	...	13,534	1,104	1,329	225	...
Mareeba	2,452	1,484	...	968	...	1	1	...
Mourilyan	764	626	...	138	...	...	...	...
Norman	230,988	196,453	...	34,535	23,104	23,357	253	...
Palmer	21,035	28,948	7,913	...	...	60	60	...
Ravenswood	25,095	22,368	...	2,727	11	20	9	...
Somerset	1,132	587	...	545	15	...	...	15
Thornborough	31,977	32,506	529	...	...	...	...	...
Townsville	5,944	10,660	4,716	...	107	641	534	...
	1,950,117	1,882,056	127,109	195,170	1,706,298	1,784,666	84,960	6,592

Net decrease in Cattle in the Division, 68,061.

Net increase in Sheep in the Division, 78,368.

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED.

Table No. V.

RETURN of LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED for PRESERVATION as Food or FREEZING or for TALLOW, during the YEARS 1888-1897, with the Quantity of MEAT, TALLOW, LARD, &c., produced.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Average Number of Hands employed.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.						Hogs. †	MEAT PRESERVED OR FROZEN.					Extract and Essence of Meat Produced.	Quantity of Tallow Produced.	Quantity of Lard Produced.
			Cattle.			Sheep.				Beef.		Mutton.		Bacon. =			
			For Preserv- ing.	For Freezing.	For Boiling Down.	For Preserv- ing.	For Freezing.	For Boiling Down.		Preserved.	Frozen.	Preserved.	Frozen.				
1888	5	...	...	12,315	...	...	14,613	...	...	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	tons.	lb.
1889	4	...	...	11,266	...	...	85,988	...	350	3,995,000	7,403,046	...	...	...	71,132	1,109	...
1890	6	...	...	16,831	...	...	141,763	...	4,446	7,403,046	10,636,039	...	...	...	120,199	1,170	3,029
1891	8	286	21,919	8,784	...	29,111	122,022	...	17,790	10,636,039	16,194,329*	...	...	...	111,838	2,073	...
1892	16	989	28,683	24,567	32,000	170,683	162,662	317,421	19,329	3,008,090	17,862,694	1,751,909	5,650,907	1,149,778	148,135	6,639	75,102
1893	25	1,129	43,543	39,828	41,166	150,668	66,025	1,070,082	56,145	7,751,031	28,137,501	1,726,541	2,851,255	3,971,018	228,264	11,183	56,764
1894	31	1,127	77,916	48,558	67,611	394,405	57,787	417,328	48,539	17,640,457	33,305,023	5,862,373	2,749,042	4,695,280	168,805	15,633	84,070
1895	39	2,848	104,969	80,487	98,374	385,060	75,600	743,257	58,870	49,849,396	50,349,956	5,088,502	3,064,458	4,941,512	511,533	21,263	159,093
1896	35	2,838	77,719	76,483	87,562	262,151	100,550	430,696	67,034	19,197,234	50,245,213	2,914,902	4,571,086	5,108,726	517,011	12,736	203,972
1897	Metropolitan	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Barcaldine	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bowen	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Caboolture	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Charleville	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Charters Towers	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Emerald	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Esk	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gladstone	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gatton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Hughenden	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laidley	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Longreach	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mackay	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mareeba	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rockhampton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Roma	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Lawrence	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tenningering	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Toowoomba	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Townsville	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Warwick	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yeulba	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Of this 4,255,733 lb. were preserved, and 11,938,596 lb. frozen. † In 1893 and subsequent years, the pigs killed by farmers for conversion into bacon or pork are included. ‡ Includes 682,955 lb. salted.
 † Includes 326,232 lb. salted. ‡ Exclusive of pork (fresh and salt), made by farmers, in addition to their bacon. § Prior to this year returns were not separated. a. Includes 182,586 salted. b. Includes 106,499 lb. salted.

Table No. VI.
OTHER PRODUCTS OF MEAT PRESERVING, &C., ESTABLISHMENTS.

Year.	No.	Manure.		Edible Fats.		Hides.		Skins.		Bones.		Horns and Hoofs.	Hair.		Oils, &c.		Total Value.
		Tons.	£	lb.	£	Number.	£	Number.	£	Tons.	£	£	lb.	£	Gallons.	£	£
1895 ...	36	4,505	11,124	580,219	6,599	281,781	161,795	1,170,559	160,545	1,332	5,001	3,905	59,434	1,979	28,454	2,661	353,609
1896 ...	35	7,321	13,627	597,000	1,950	239,305	141,559	770,482	119,370	683	2,808	2,288	39,220	1,238	23,782	2,350	285,190
1897 ...	38	10,738	24,654	673,385	8,455	259,160	161,979	928,330	125,043	954	3,696	3,307	76,539	1,848	18,478	1,819	330,801

Table No. VII.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of CATTLE, SHEEP, &C., SLAUGHTERED for CONSUMPTION for FOOD in SOME of the PRINCIPAL CITIES of QUEENSLAND, together with the AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT of each ANIMAL and the ESTIMATED QUANTITY CONSUMED PER CAPITA, for 1897.

CITY (including SUBURBS).	POPULATION.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.					AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT.					LB. CONSUMED PER CAPITA.					
	Estimated for 1897.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Beef.	Mutton.	Veal.	Lamb.	Pork.	Total.
							Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.						
Bowen	1,800	811	450	84	45	127	700	50	175	30	100	315	12	8	1	7	343
Brisbare	105,734	28,961	150,496	3,753	4,261	4,774	670	43	62	30	78	184	61	2	1	4	252
Bundaberg	9,321	4,942	8,660	460	200	910	650	45	100	10	100	345	42	5	...	10	402
Cairns	5,712	2,123	2,558	30	40	790	500	40	140	30	100	186	18	1	...	14	219
Charters Towers ...	22,500	12,781	53,519	427	950	3,722	590	36	130	23	75	335	86	2	1	12	436
Cooktown	2,800	1,654	382	16	8	364	534	36	93	17	68	315	5	1	...	9	330
Gladstone* ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gympie	15,129	4,200	10,500	760	160	950	600	40	60	30	75	167	28	3	...	5	203
Ipswich	14,743	6,036	16,637	495	241	792	650	45	50	25	80	266	51	2	...	4	323
Mackay	5,664	5,129	4,142	353	56	400	550	40	133	27	82	498	29	8	...	6	541
Maryborough	12,087	6,763	18,866	582	734	806	650	50	45	35	80	364	78	2	2	5	451
Normanton* ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rockhampton	18,555	8,317	30,393	683	796	2,085	650	42	125	25	80	291	69	5	1	9	375
Roma	1,724	1,505	4,276	10	153	201	519	44	70	29	76	453	109	...	3	9	574
Toowoomba	12,600	4,458	17,208	158	200	1,880	784	45	70	28	100	277	61	1	...	15	354
Townsville	13,302	5,527	25,282	471	929	947	658	39	83	26	87	273	74	3	2	6	358
Warwick	4,100	1,742	6,881	61	229	1,472	600	40	120	30	100	255	67	2	2	36	362
Totals	245,771	94,949	350,250	8,343	9,002	20,220	620	42	97	26	85	240	60	3	1	7	311

* Return imperfect.

Table No. VIII.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1897.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Total Extent of Land under permanent Pasture with Artificially Sown Grasses.			Land in Fallow.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.			WHEAT.			OATS.			BARLEY.			MAIZE.		RYE.			POTATOES.			SUGAR-CANE.		SOWN GRASSES.										VINES.		Gardens and Orchards.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.

Table No. VIII.—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1897—continued.

Petty Sessions Districts,	Total Extent of Land under permanent Pasture with Artificially Sown Grasses.		Land in Fallow.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	WHEAT.			OATS.			BARLEY.			MAIZE.		RYE.			Rice (Grain).	POTATOES.		SUGAR-CANE.			Arrowroot.	Tobacco.	Coffee.	Sorghum, Millet, etc.	SOWN GRASSES.			VINES.		Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.																																				
	Acres.	Acres.			Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.					Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.						Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.																											
																																																Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	English.	Sweet.	Cotton.	For Sugar.	Green Food for Cattle.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Hay.	Other Green Fodder.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.
SOUTHERN. West of Main Range—continued.			Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.																																			
Roma	...	5,817	68	5,749	3,654	502	36	3	106	21	8	18	6	416	103	3	1	5	...	28	10	...	...	...	...	27	3	5	27	22	...	...	490	112	...	...	28	25	90																											
St. George	...	374	50	324	12	143	1	...	19	23	18	18	1																																		
Stanthorpe	48	844	23	821	126	9	...	29	214	2	4	2	1	94	1	...	1	2	...	74	1																																	
Surat	...	57	19	38	4	18	5																																	
Tambo	...	17	...	17																																	
Texas	52	1,027	...	1,027	163	16	13	1	1	224	1	4	1																																	
Thargomindah	...	14	...	14																																	
Toowoomba	3,891	45,541	2,797	42,744	17,078	1,058	13	619	1,717	57	795	30	676	8,855	348	66	13	58	...	276	1																																
Warwick	3,526	29,096	195	28,901	13,229	537	21	398	645	13	418	3	51	9,255	37	43	8	...	515	1																																
Windorah, part of																																
Yeulba	...	1,402	4	1,398	689	7	7	...	16	10	3	216	133	3	5	2	...	25	17																																
Total West	9,416	140,019	3,945	136,074	57,784	3,790	117	1749	3,826	188	1877	100	1067	37,550	819	190	42	84	...	1,799	53	749	...	1404	13,072	4,686	430	830	86	277	987	147	...	2	5	113	896	1,325																																
Total S. Div.	13,800	305,947	9,083	296,864	59,704	5,873	324	1804	12,269	2,252	2076	285	1586	102,783	2,384	462	701	343	14	7,625	2,335	46	43,011	901	387	752	29	3378	22,827	6,141	3,482	1300	154	507	1,764	237	1,569	680	1425	2202	3,252																																	
CENTRAL. East of Main Range.																																																																										
Banana	...	27	5	22	7	12	13	1																															
Clermont	...	223	80	143	...	2	...	1	8	64	6	12	4																															
Emerald	...	286	58	228	130	3	1	17																															
Gladstone	3	606	136	470	...	3	34	1	...	1	...	268	29	12																																
Mackay (Nebo collection)	...	25	6	19	6																																
Mount Morgan	3	159	14	145	15	1	1	21	1	4	25	6	4	1	12	3	4	1	5	2	24	15																															
Rockhampton	134	4,237	81	4,156	3	1,267	18	1	...	1	359	28	1	87	109	...	1,192	1	2	...	6	30	441	13	264	1	14	...	3	44	16	19	18	104	77	37																																
St. Lawrence	...	81	11	70	3	38	7	6																															
Springsure	4	293	40	253	9	17	2	...	41	9	118	4	1	...	5	4																															
Total East	144	5,937	431	5,506	141	22	2	4	1,371	28	1	2	3	898	39	1	...	1	...	156	173	...	1,192	1	2	...	7	43	477	56	279	41	15	4	64	23	24	26	144	118	148																															
West of Main Range																																																																										
Alpha																														
Aramac																														
Baraldine	...	187	7	180	27	2	80	11	4	7	2																														
Blackall	...	61	12	49	1	5	2	10	12																															
Boulia																														
Diamantina, part of																														
Isisford	...	15	...	15	2																														
Longreach	...	5	...	5	1																														
Muttaburra	16	9	...	9	2	2																														
Windorah, part of	...	2	...	2																														
Winton	...	10	...	10	6	1																														
Total West	16	289	19	270	27	2	...	1	85	2	21	4	30	5	2	1	4																														
Total C. Div.	160	6,226	450	5,776	168	24	2	5	1,456	28	1	2	5	919	43	1	...	1	...	186	178	...	1,192	1	2	...	7	45	478	60	279	41	15	4	76	25	24	26	148	122	212																															

Table No. VIII.—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1897—continued.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Total Extent of Land under permanent Pasture with Artificially Sown Grasses.	Total Extent of Land under Cultivation.	Land in Fallow.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	WHEAT.			OATS.			BARLEY.			MAIZE.		RYE.			POTATOES.			SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco.	Coffee.	Sorghum, Millet, Etc.	SOWN GRASSES.					VINES.		Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
					Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Green Food for Cattle.	Grain.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.	Rice (Grain).	English.	Sweet.	Cotton.	For Sugar.					Green Food for Cattle.	Lucerne.	Green Food for Cattle.	Panicum.	Green Food for Cattle.	Hay.	Green Food for Cattle.						Hay.	Other Green Fodder.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
NORTHERN.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
East of Coast Range.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Ayr	...	8,123	1,202	6,921	214	25	108	...	6,510	7</

Table No. IX.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS Raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1897.

QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																									
PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES.		Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (cured leaf).	Coffee.	HAY						VINES.				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.		Sugar-Cane Crushed.	Sugar.				Sown Grasses.			Grapes Gathered.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.				
															Lucerne.	Panicum.	Other Sown Grasses.								
Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bshls.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	
SOUTHERN. East of Main Range.																									
Beaudesert	64	Nil.		86,499			393	266				3			609	1		480	78	21	3,230	300	10	7,230	
Biggenden	25			12,187	150		55	139				5			209			38	104		10,370	1,000	Nil.	Nil.	
Brisbane				19,590			953	2,908							1,028	1	11	1,672	295	12	334,713	179,628	196,413	70,867	
Bundaberg			9	48,636	60		233	1,098							582	15	2	846	216		35,788	23,641	2,723	37,370	
Caboolture				18,707			413	309				6			140			46	4		21,540	450	500	9,357	
Childers				29,234			99	272							315	4	31	65	40		6,280	3,280	1,008	7,510	
Cleveland			14	669			71	315				12			72	3		2	5		46,338	476,316	56,213	75,544	
Crow's Nest	8,844	38	1,098	74,143	303		1,231	16							98	140	8	3	124	6		43,148			9,500
Dugandan	195			221,785	251		299	42							125	322	44	259	1,517	112		39,714	17,080		4,780
Eidsvold	140			5,381			22	25							26	89		4	7	51		15,680			
Esk	16	Nil.	84	55,760	19		217	129	4,928			17			50	482	8	30	1,198	229		19,315	Nil.		5,450
Gatton	2,197	213	548	149,471	2,067		1,908	115					Nil.		1,883	712	86	270	5,260	877	10	187,482			95,380
Gayndah			40	2,516			24	68	Nil.						16	48			9	10		450			2,800
Gin Gin				20,497	23		54	92								84			61	26		7,120			7,450
Goodna			110	12,860			80	18	1,700							178	1		127	70		13,960			200
Gympie		1		33,246			266	247							1,793	3	21	499	121		43,440		Nil.	13,130	
Harrisville	268	4	1,139	120,833	1,287		378	202	8,525						252	2,091	18	118	3,099	1,251		15,896			1,860
Ipswich				56,965			352	140							1,059	9	6	2,187	223	10	34,369	30	300	12,880	
Laidley	3,969	120	1,100	199,010	552		717	303	1,780				13		423	426	35	88	9,877	485	3	52,680			50
Logan	126	3	30	35,998	28	401	873	1,023				628			5	543	1	12	89	64		125,980	1,621,050	12,843	32,800
Marburg				112,322	32		211	340	3,024						32	351	41	69	544	139		149,260	5,940		20,200
Maroochy				16,845	30		124	404				52		3,140		88				2		12,340	648,841	2,676	58,958
Maryborough		4		12,844	58		282	490						827		1,294	1	25	401	136		72,957	86,253	4,113	157,793
Nanango	7,475	91	60	18,175			60	29							14	68	5		48	88	20	9,948			Nil.
Nerang		20		72,859		7	653	159				2,052			2	319	9	5	211	80		38,680	4,132	306	97,248
Redcliffe				81,228			1,246	383							10	847	46	18	666	78		20,630	3,400	1,372	21,630
Rosewood	135	45		72,148			208	63				32			125	662	10	57	1,006	368		124,344			19,980
South Brisbane				6,094			379	1,025								1,384		Nil.	1,383	415		260,709		5,052	
Taroom		Nil.		606			6	11							5	23	Nil.		23	15	3	1,268			1,520
Tenningering				410			10	92								12			7	8		2,240			1,000
Tiaro				51,634	48		677	110							22	1,067	10	294	550	112	28	23,508	7,500	770	17,824
Woodford				9,554			68	279				74			1	103	3		44		8	37,826			4,160
Total East	23,454	539	4,232	1,658,706	4,908	408	12,567	11,110	19,957			2,881	13	3,967	3,101	17,140	362	1,323	32,086	5,708	126	1,810,893	3,078,841	284,299	794,471
West of Main Range.																									
Adavale							8															4,920			300
Allora	211,953	5,386	9,412	182,075			154								1,156	984	4		4,789	203		153,128			
Augathella							3	2														2,940			
Charleville															4				4			12,500			3
Condamine	6			12											15	20						17,500			
Cunnamulla							9								105							4,300			
Dalby	41,370	270	2,472	37,667	280		156	40							29	165	12	2	556	1		56,300			1,800
Diamantina, part of																									
Eulo																									
Goondiwindi	90	90	84	675			2						3		67	67	30	1	18			14,200			2,000
Highfields	61,903	1,517	2,874	169,721	1,251		1,469	17							298	240	19	21	908	12	31	156,71			25,400
Hungerford							Nil.								28										
Inglewood	3,054			8,746	20		22	3							104	39	4		59	6		8,460			
Killarney	68,262	5,120	1,458	98,907			355						1,334		14	21			467			33,752			4,000
Mitchell	8,763			240			2								60	5			1		6	49,060			200

Table No. IX.—continued.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1897—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																									
	GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES.		Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (cured leaf).	Coffee.	HAY.							VINES.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.		Sugar-Cane Crushed.	Sugar.				Sown Grasses.						Grapes Gathered.					
															Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Lucerne	Panicum.						Other Sown Grasses.
SOUTHERN. West of Main Range—continued.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bhls.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	
Roma ...	38,920	Nil	50	1,518	2	...	27	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	468	77	22	1	3	11	...	1,058,408	...	...	31,412
St. George ...	...	...	...	6	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	8	1	...	13	1	...	4,700	...	...	5,520
Stanthorpe ...	1,847	528	64	2,454	...	...	182	...	...	...	...	...	196	...	15	280	3	2	77	5	...	27,272	...	...	...
Surat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	...	...	Nil	...	...	1,170	...	...	...
Tambo ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,480	...	...	400
Texas ...	3,371	...	48	6,472	40	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	4,153	...	14	14	1	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thargomindah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,126	...	...	3,100
Toowoomba ...	296,508	11,617	19,669	167,031	1,317	...	511	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,481	2,665	76	17	6,903	89	88	826,391	3,500	...	30,020
Warwick ...	240,784	6,156	9,462	274,583	266	...	1,816	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	753	833	5	10	5,867	148	...	402,331	...	Nil	3,800
Windorah, part of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yeulba ...	8,364	...	...	1,655	Nil	...	19	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	35	...	12	17	101	...	13,040	...	...	...
Total West ...	985,195	30,684	45,593	941,762	3,156	...	4,768	130	...	...	...	...	5,686	...	4,703	5,457	177	86	19,722	577	125	2,859,696	3,500	Nil	107,982
Total S. Div. ...	1,008,649	31,223	49,825	2,600,468	8,064	408	17,335	11,240	19,957	29,997	33,706	2,881	5,699	3,967	7,804	22,597	539	1,389	51,808	6,285	251	4,670,589	3,082,341	284,299	902,453	
CENTRAL. East of Main Range.																										
Banana ...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clermont... ..	...	8	...	144	...	...	2	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	...	...	1	...	...	3,400	...	...	2,990
Emerald ...	200	...	...	188	...	...	14	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	15,223	...	...	1,852
Gladstone ...	...	...	...	7,134	...	...	64	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	64	2	...	55	...	3	2,210	200	2,404	9,120
Mackay(Nebo collection)	...	...	...	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,900	...	...	600
Mount Morgan ...	...	...	...	412	...	...	8	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1	...	4	24	...	3,432	160	323	993
Rockhampton ...	...	41	15	6,363	15	...	96	374	...	...	...	6	...	500	...	1,216	...	...	777	360	19	47,202	15,552	4,508	133,867
St. Lawrence ...	...	...	...	720	...	...	9	11	...	...	...	...	336	...	...	5	...	...	3	...	...	4,244	20	...	100
Springsure ...	24	...	...	81	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	13	...	...	...	...	...	7,120	...	...	60
Total East ...	224	49	15	15,137	15	...	196	540	...	...	...	6	...	836	14	1,327	3	...	812	388	22	85,761	15,932	7,235	149,582
West of Main Range.																										
Alpha ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aramac ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barcaldine ...	406	...	...	18	...	...	9	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	96	...	...	1	...	...	11,200	...	...	360
Blackall ...	...	20	...	200	...	...	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	9,340	...	...	...
Boulia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamantina, part of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isisford ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,800	...	...	...
Longreach ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	848	...	...	...
Muttaburra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Windorah, part of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,400	...	...	300
Winton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,360	...	...	...
Total West ...	406	20	...	318	...	...	76	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	116	...	...	1	...	...	30,948	...	...	660
Total Central Division	630	69	15	15,455	15	...	272	553	...	700	805	6	836	...	15	1,443	3	...	843	388	22	116,709	15,932	7,235	150,242	

Table No. IX.—continued.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1897—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																									
	GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES		Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (cured leaf).	Coffee.	HAY.							VINES.		Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.		Sugar- Cane Crushed.	Sugar.				Sown Grasses.						Grapes Gathered.					
															Lucerne	Pani- cum.	Other Sown Grasses.									
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bshls.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	
NORTHERN. East of Coast Range.																										
Ayr	...	...	...	6,776	...	...	54	845	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,300	...	1,170
Bowen	...	...	...	5,314	...	...	155	99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,050	...	93,384
Cairns	...	...	...	45,963	...	7,162	24	1,266	...	...	...	...	...	16,962	1	25	...	...	...	...	...	1,400	58,050	5,575	225,960
Cardwell	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	210	...	...	...	...	...	112	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	7,928,662	17,596	225,960
Cook	...	...	...	4,802	...	1,428	4	239	20	...	...	...	...	57,065	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,300	162	52,400
Douglas	...	...	...	7,392	...	3,529	1	191	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74,900	3,680	30,324
Ingham	...	...	...	7,388	...	...	11	583	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,985	2,840	58,257
Mackay (less Nebo collection)	...	...	...	10,857	...	89	88	749	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	...	82	2	...	...	...	...	6,880	12,850	75	1,060
Mareeba	...	...	...	1,790	...	...	7	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,400	808	7,750
Mourilyan	...	...	...	2,446	...	60	10	395	...	...	...	...	...	672	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	4,900	...	1,000
Somerset	...	...	...	50	...	30	...	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,165,810	5,060	14,500
Townsville	...	...	...	472	...	...	139	103	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,794	590	120
Total East	...	...	...	93,298	...	12,298	493	4,756	20	34,735	63,405	...	4	76,811	1	113	2	...	...	29	12	11,080	13,357,511	42,516	493,465
West of Coast Range.																										
Burke	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...
Camoweeal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cape River	...	...	...	60	...	...	7	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charters Towers	...	...	...	140	...	...	60	203	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,280	...	...	11,850
Cloncurry	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	13,940	Nil.	6,740	28,900
Croydon	...	...	...	132	...	...	5	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Etheridge	...	...	...	206	...	...	28	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	15,190	962	5,496
Herberton	14	204	...	89,662	...	284	228	434	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,100	6,000	1,070
Hughenden	...	...	...	242	...	...	39	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	259	4	...	168	40	...	...	4,260	9,800	2,466	23,950
Norman	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	825	...	...	3,100
Palmer	...	...	...	958	250	...	13	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500	...	1,650
Ravenswood	...	...	...	41	...	...	18	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,080	60	1,100
Thornborough	...	...	...	2,510	...	...	4	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	108	...	250	2,550
Total West	14	204	...	93,951	250	284	420	917	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	566	4	2	176	47	...	24,613	38,820	17,474	82,016
Total N. Div.	14	204	...	187,249	250	12,582	913	5,673	20	34,735	63,405	1	4	76,811	1	679	6	2	176	76	12	35,693	13,396,331	59,990	575,481	
Grand Total, 1897	1,009,293	31,496	49,840	2,803,172	8,329	12,990	18,520	17,466	19,977	65,432	97,916	2,888	5,703	81,614	7,820	24,719	548	1,391	52,827	6,749	285	4,822,991	16,494,604	351,524	1,628,176	
" " 1896	601,254	32,181	19,340	3,065,333	7,419	2,528	18,451	14,322	141,032	66,640	100,774	2,603	8,629	9,707	1,689	17,836	501	717	41,799	7,117	136	5,122,531	17,059,124	313,835	1,348,990	
Increases in 1897	408,039	...	30,500	...	910	10,462	69	3,144	...	...	...	285	...	71,907	6,131	6,883	47	674	11,028	...	149	...	...	37,689	279,186
Decreases in 1897	...	685	...	262,161	...	...	...	...	121,055	1,208	2,858	...	2,926	...	...	...	...	...	...	368	...	299,540	564,520	...	...

Table No. X.

SHOWING the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP—RETURN for TEN YEARS.

Year.	Total Extent of Land under Cultivation.	Land in Fallow.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	AREA UNDER EACH DESCRIPTION OF CROP.																													
				GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES.				HAY CROPS.										Lucerne and Other Green Forage.	VINES.			Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	
				Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.	Cotton.	Sugar-Cane.	Arrowroot.	Tobacco.	Coffee.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Lucernè.	Panicum.	Other.		For Wine-making.	For Table Use.	Unpro-ductive.						
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1888	214,002	21,015	192,987	9,305	642	324	85,966	...	497	5,338	1,965	...	47,340	149	123	...	193	5,306	202	...	13,798	1,273	206	11,281	600	832	271	2,220	581	1,068	893	2,614	
1889	247,073	14,430	232,643	8,459	750	1,254	97,698	...	249	4,484	2,701	1	49,741	210	266	...	7,326	12,717	544	...	22,848	1,981	201	10,120	655	791	317	3,282	628	1,194	1,700	2,526	
1890	239,818	14,626	224,993	10,890	411	584	99,400	169	300	6,270	2,724	16	50,922	276	540	...	1,610	8,913	258	...	18,424	1,652	249	9,546	690	940	351	3,890	721	1,234	2,088	2,425	
1891	258,004	15,375	242,629	19,306	715	739	101,598	538	457	9,173	2,805	90	50,948	237	790	...	1,082	10,212	224	...	17,678	1,287	172	10,760	681	1,022	285	3,897	1,138	1,423	2,072	3,300	
1892	260,328	13,097	247,731	31,742	591	385	92,172	367	1,113	8,493	2,964	717	55,520	222	318	...	1,423	9,065	129	464	13,249	1,240	95	14,690	858	880	170	3,059	1,035	1,724	1,694	3,359	
1893	252,075	8,836	243,240	28,993	606	495	93,556	493	789	8,306	2,997	191	59,251	192	475	...	2,417	9,943	236	313	8,443	1,025	128	13,336	645	975	380	2,423	803	1,630	1,320	2,885	
1894	284,553	9,570	274,983	28,997	1,477	1,418	103,671	283	650	10,523	2,775	100	71,818	282	915	...	4,643	10,993	195	319	10,228	1,490	160	12,029	605	1,062	320	3,075	819	1,672	1,434	3,029	
1895	299,278	13,959	285,319	27,090	922	721	100,481	202	716	9,240	2,736	494	77,247	194	1,061	60	1,344	9,763	221	410	14,315	2,411	145	19,552	1,782*	239	3,916	847	1,900	4,121	3,189		
1896	336,775	14,097	322,678	35,831	1,881	1,122	115,715	345	600	7,672	3,131	280	83,093	309	994	138	1,845	11,565	282	427	17,892	3,673	80	19,509	1,842	178	4,477	823	1,791	3,875	3,308		
1897	386,259	14,402	371,857	59,975	1,834	2,077	109,721	470	445	8,197	3,581	48	98,641	391	755	311	5,898	14,002	291	702	23,362	3,791	174	19,903	1,881	286	4,828	909	2,196	3,410	3,878		

* These can no longer be kept separate.

Table No. XI.

SHOWING the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the Colony of Queensland—RETURN for TEN YEARS.

QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																															
GRAIN CROPS.														SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot (Commercial).	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	HAY.						VINES.		Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.		
Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English Potatoes.	Sweet Potatoes.	Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Sown Grasses.				Wine Made.	Grapes for Table Use.											
									Sugar- Cane Crushed.	Sugar.					Lucerne.						Pani- cum.	Other Sown Grasses.									
Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Lb.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Gallons.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.						
1888	8,363	3,626	7,432	2,181,681	...	17,507	10,119	10,592	...	32,375	34,659	254,870	1,418	...	263	23,922	2,150	370	23,922	2,150	370	144,239	1,835,831	6,320,868	187,747	742,417					
1889	134,335	14,581	26,630	1,743,051	*	4,121	10,650	15,239	7	29,438	40,169	583,958	2,531	...	14,333	29,093	1,691	...	38,968	3,734	353	164,626	1,967,667	4,993,517	227,785	560,564					
1890	207,990	9,937	12,673	2,373,903	2,672	10,553	13,112	15,698	5,315	40,208	68,924	712,144	2,392	...	2,646	14,219	414	...	29,622	2,857	358	189,274	2,404,863	22,002,092	263,349	913,759					
1891	392,309	16,669	21,302	3,077,915	12,434	21,461	25,018	15,657	48,746	36,821	51,219	682,252	7,704	...	1,783	18,832	672	...	34,552	2,659	344	168,526	2,619,337	11,644,769	543,415	1,090,804					
1892	462,583	13,945	6,969	2,333,553	8,001	33,380	20,493	16,168	212,370	40,572	61,368	576,738	3,808	...	2,177	16,844	225	867	31,147	2,465	154	193,327	2,267,087	14,277,663	633,803	1,689,466					
1893	413,094	12,096	8,396	1,824,108	9,479	32,043	17,165	12,640	29,353	43,670	76,146	448,737	4,577	...	2,820	17,831	452	497	18,734	1,715	304	101,528	2,081,854	10,591,306	343,773	2,663,211					
1894	545,185	30,463	37,824	2,684,925	5,251	24,866	28,185	14,203	154,801	49,839	91,712	534,687	9,571	...	6,362	20,300	336	617	25,236	2,615	230	176,497	3,160,580	8,928,025	686,135	2,048,919					
														(Tubers.)														Total Wine made from a portion of the Grapes returned in the adjoining column.	All Grapes gathered.		
														Tons.														Gallons.	Lb.		
1895	123,630	10,887	7,756	2,391,378	4,169	19,245	19,027	14,233	1269,110	55,771	86,255	7,511	14,060	1,344	12,493	372	944	30,835	4,662	226	238,208	4,254,795	14,860,386	376,875	1,995,872						
1896	601,854	34,181	19,340	3,065,333	7,449	20,528	18,451	14,322	141,032	66,640	100,774	2,603	8,629	9,707	1,689	17,836	501	717	41,799	7,017	136	170,733	5,122,531	17,059,124	313,835	1,343,990					
1897	1,009,293	81,496	49,840	2,803,172	8,329	12,990	18,520	17,466	19,977	65,432	97,916	2,838	5,703	81,614	7,820	24,719	548	1,391	52,827	6,749	285	207,945	4,822,991	16,494,604	351,524	1,628,176					

* Not specially returned in previous years.

† Unginned.

AVERAGE PRODUCE PER ACRE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS—RETURN FOR TEN YEARS.

Table No. XII.

Year.	Wheat Grain.	Oats Grain.	Barley Grain.	Maize.	Rye Grain.	Rice.	English Potatoes.	Sweet Potatoes.	Cotton.	Sugar (on Acres Crushed).	Arrowroot (Commercial)	Tobacco (Dried Leaf).	Coffee.	Wheat (Hay).	Oats (Hay).	Barley (Hay).	Rye (Hay).	SOWN GRASSES.			Wine.	Grapes for Table Use.	Bananas.	Pine-Apples.	Oranges.
																		Lucerne (Hay).	Panicum (Hay).	Other Sown Grasses (Hay).					
1888 ...	Bushels. 0.89	Bushels. 5.65	Bushels. 22.94	Bushels. 25.38	Bushels. ...	Bushels. 37.41	Tons. 1.90	Tons. 5.39	Lb. ...	Tons. 1.07	Lb. 1,710.54	Cwt. 11.53	Lb. ...	Tons. 1.36	Tons. 1.03	Tons. 0.55	Tons. ...	Tons. 1.73	Tons. 1.69	Tons. 1.80	Gallons. 240.40	Lb. 2,206.53	Dozens. 2,847.23	Dozens. 323.14	Dozens. 695.15
1889 ...	15.88	19.41	21.24	17.84	...	8.81	2.38	5.64	*7.00	1.36	2,780.90	9.52	...	1.96	2.29	3.11	...	1.71	1.88	1.76	251.34	2,487.57	1,521.49	362.71	323.74
1890 ...	20.02	21.82	21.70	23.88	15.81	22.55	2.09	5.76	*332.19	1.69	2,580.23	4.43	...	1.64	1.60	1.60	...	1.61	1.73	1.44	274.31	2,547.73	5,656.06	365.26	740.49
1891 ...	20.32	23.31	28.83	30.30	23.11	46.96	2.73	5.58	*541.62	1.39	2,878.70	9.75	...	1.65	1.85	3.00	...	1.96	2.07	2.00	247.47	2,562.95	2,988.14	477.52	766.55
1892 ...	14.57	21.94	18.10	25.32	22.23	29.99	2.41	5.45	*296.19	1.51	2,597.92	11.97	...	1.53	1.86	1.74	1.87	2.35	1.99	1.62	225.32	2,576.24	4,667.43	641.36	979.97
1893 ...	14.25	19.96	16.96	19.50	19.11	40.61	2.07	4.22	*153.68	1.74	2,337.17	9.64	...	1.17	1.79	1.92	1.59	2.22	1.67	2.38	157.41	2,135.23	4,371.15	428.11	1,633.87
1894 ...	18.80	20.62	26.67	25.90	18.55	38.26	2.68	5.12	+548.01	1.84	1,896.05	10.46	...	1.37	1.85	1.72	1.93	2.47	1.76	1.44	291.73	2,976.06	2,903.42	837.77	1,225.43
											(Tubers.)										† Grapes.				
1895 ...	4.56	11.81	10.76	23.80	20.64	26.88	2.06	5.20	+544.76	1.55	Tons. 6.65	7.08	234.33	1.06	1.28	1.68	2.30	2.15	1.93	1.56	Lb. 2,387.65		3,794.79	444.95	1,050.46
1896 ...	16.78	17.10	17.24	26.49	21.59	34.21	2.40	4.57	+503.69	1.51	8.42	8.68	70.34	0.92	1.54	1.78	1.68	2.34	1.91	1.70	2,780.96		3,810.39	381.33	753.20
1897 ...	16.86	17.17	24.00	25.55	17.72	29.19	2.26	4.88	+416.19	1.50	7.39	7.55	262.42	1.33	1.77	1.88	1.98	2.26	1.78	1.64	2,564.06		3,416.45	386.72	741.43

* Ginned.

† Unginned.

‡ The manufacture of wine by the purchasers of the grapes and not the growers has now attained such proportions that the returns can no longer be kept distinct.

Table No. XIII.

RETURN for the Year 1897, showing the EXTENT of LAND SOWN with WHEAT GRAIN in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS from which Returns have been received, the AREA MOWN for HAY, REAPED for GRAIN, CUT for GREEN FEED for CATTLE, and UNPRODUCTIVE, respectively; also the AREA affected with RUST, free from RUST, and the PRODUCE.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	Total Extent of Land Sown with Wheat Grain.	Total Area Mown for Hay.	Total Area Reaped for Grain.	Total Area Cut for Green Food for Cattle.	Total Area Unproduc- tive.	RESULTS.											
						AFFECTED WITH RUST.						FREE FROM RUST.					
						Total Area affected with Rust.	HAY.		GRAIN.			Total Area free from Rust.	HAY.		GRAIN.		
							Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.		Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
SOUTH. <i>East of Main Range.</i>	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.		Bushels.	Bushels.	Acres.	Tons.		Bushels.	Bushels.		
Biggenden	9	5	2	2	...	5	3	6	2	25	12'50	2	2	3	...	...
Brisbane	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bundaberg	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beaudesert	14	...	4	10	...	4	...	...	4	64	16'00	...	...	...	...	...
Caboolture	4	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crow's Nest	539	52	469	1	17	228	29	55	199	3,199	16'08	293	23	43	270	5,645	
Cleveland	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Childers	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dugandan	121	78	12	...	31	60	58	102	2	20	10'00	30	20	23	10	175	
Eidsvold	32	23	8	1	...	6	6	12	...	...	...	25	17	14	8	140
Esk	30	23	1	3	3	15	15	28	...	...	...	9	8	22	1	16
Gatton	1,715	1,294	217	21	183	1,418	1,268	1,833	150	1,372	9'15	93	26	50	67	825	
Gayndah	12	7	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	16	...	...
Gympie	8	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harrisville... ..	187	148	19	18	2	138	133	220	5	42	8'40	29	15	32	14	226	
Ipswich	9	...	...	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laidley	881	316	370	6	189	564	252	322	312	3,016	9'67	122	64	101	58	953	
Logan	16	2	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	5	10	126
Marburg	83	20	...	62	1	4	4	7	...	...	...	16	16	25	...	...
Maryborough	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maroochy	5	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nanango	364	9	347	...	8	8	...	...	8	160	20'00	348	9	14	339	7,315
Nerang	8	1	...	7	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Redcliffe	12	7	...	5	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	6	6	9	...	...
Rosewood	116	71	7	30	8	32	32	56	...	...	...	46	39	69	7	135
South Brisbane	8	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Taroom	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	5	...	...
Tiaro	27	22	...	5	...	2	2	5	...	...	...	20	20	17	...	...
Woodford	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4,210	2,083	1,466	207	454	2,488	1,806	2,653	682	7,898	11'59	1,061	277	448	784	15,556	

SOUTH.																		
West of Main Range.																		
Allora	13,794	902	12,463	...	429	8,281	810	1,036	7,471	115,890	15.51	5,084	92	120	4,992	96,063	19.24	
Charleville...	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13	4	...	...	...
Cunnamulla ...	60	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	60	105	...	...	...
Condamine...	41	40	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	40	15	1	6	6.00
Dalby	1,984	49	1,919	...	16	440	38	26	402	7,399	18.41	1,528	11	3	1,517	33,971	22.39	
Goondiwindi ...	52	37	7	2	6	14	14	29	...	...	...	30	23	38	7	90	12.86
Highfields ...	3,314	494	3,094	...	26	1,101	144	216	957	14,905	15.57	2,187	50	82	2,137	46,998	21.99	
Hungerford ...	41	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	41	28	...	...	...
Inglewood ...	196	41	155	...	...	1	...	...	1	28	28.00	195	41	104	154	3,026	19.65
Killarney ...	3,093	14	3,052	...	27	184	...	...	184	2,584	14.04	2,882	14	14	2,868	65,678	22.90
Mitchell ...	1,782	109	1,474	37	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,583	109	60	1,474	8,763	5.95
Roma	4,192	502	3,654	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,156	502	463	3,654	38,920	10.65
St. George...	156	143	...	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	143	143	72	...	...	...
Stanthorpe ...	135	9	124	...	2	18	2	6	16	25	1.56	115	7	9	108	1,822	16.87	
Surat	22	18	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18	12	...	...	...
Texas	179	16	163	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179	16	14	163	3,371	20.68
Toowoomba ...	18,147	1,058	16,843	13	233	8,023	849	1,177	7,174	100,942	14.08	9,878	209	304	9,669	195,566	20.23	
Warwick ...	13,787	537	12,606	21	623	7,540	495	702	7,045	126,739	17.99	5,603	42	51	5,561	114,045	20.51	
Yeulba	703	7	686	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	693	7	8	686	8,364	12.19
Total	61,691	3,790	56,241	117	1,543	25,602	2,352	3,192	23,250	368,512	15.85	34,429	1,438	1,511	32,991	616,683	18.69	
Total Southern	65,901	5,873	57,707	324	1,997	28,090	4,158	5,845	23,932	376,410	15.73	35,490	1,715	1,959	33,775	632,239	18.72	
CENTRAL.																		
Barcaldine ...	29	2	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	2	1	27	406	15.04
Clermont ...	4	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	...
Emerald	130	...	50	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	50	200	4.00
Gladstone ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	5	...	...	...
Springsure ...	28	17	3	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	17	7	3	24	8.00
Total Central	194	24	80	2	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	24	15	80	630	7.88
NORTH.																		
Cairns	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Herberton ...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	14	14.00
Total North ...	4	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	14	14.00
Total Colony	66,099	5,898	57,788	326	2,087	28,090	4,158	5,845	23,932	376,410	15.73	35,596	1,740	1,975	33,856	632,883	18.69	

OTHER CROPS.

Table No. XIV.

SHOWING the PRODUCE Obtained during the Year 1897 from "OTHER CROPS," details of which are not included in the GENERAL TABLE.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICT.	OTHER FRUITS.																	OTHER VEGETABLES.										OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.																				
	Apples.	Apricots	Cherries.	Cocoanuts.	Custard Apples.	Figs.	Gooseberries.	Guavas.	Lemons.	Limes.	Mangoes.	Melons.	Nectarines.	Passion Fruit.	Peaches.	Pea Nuts.	Pears.	Persimmons.	Plums.	Strawberries.	Beans.	Cabbages.	Carrots.	Cauliflowers.	Cucumbers.	Marrows.	Onions.	Peas.	Pumpkins.	Swede Turnips.	Tomatoes.	Turnips.	Yams and Taro.	Kaffir Corn.	Broom Millet.	Canary Seed.	Cassava, Manioc or Tapioca.	Chicory.	Cow Pea.	Ginger.	Lucerne for Seed.	Mangel Wurzel.	Panicum for Seed.	Rosellas.	Roses for Perfume.			
South—	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
East of Main Range	6	13	1	108	1	14	...	57	96	...	8	10	5	1	27	26	31	8	83	5	7	103	1	9	27	470	42	95	12	...	14	10	4	6	...	4		
West of Main Range	75	8	2	1	2	8	1	...	22	...	3	...	26	...	1	44	41	9	574	1	2	13	1	...	53	1	8		
Central—	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
East of Main Range	1	1	...	25	7	2	1	15	62	1	2	1		
West of Main Range	2	1	1	
Northern—	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
East of Main Range	510	1	2	22	6	149	1	23	1	...	19	56	1	201	2	8	1	1	3
West of Main Range	4	6	...	4	12	3	1	1	21	22	...	1	3	1		
Total Area	86	8	2	510	14	2	108	3	47	6	235	124	1	8	38	29	4	27	53	32	10	182	5	7	103	1	50	36	1,185	44	96	15	201	17	2	13	8	11	8	3	53	7	8	6	2	...		
South—	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Quarts.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Quarts.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Tons.	Cwt.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Lb.	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
East of Main Range	594	483	536	48,630	3,000	8,980	...	31,089	11,144	...	21,660	6,770	4,400	800	8,283	891	43,642	656	42,973	3,156	3,974	51,862	3	468	1,248	1,676	330	3,688	773	...	206	8	80	114	...	413	
West of Main Range	41,036	2,570	32	1,400	500	340	60	...	34,960	...	872	...	297	...	16	20,453	1,816	160	2,319	2	800	224	20	...	6,360	Nil	172		
Central—	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Quarts.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Quarts.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Tons.	Cwt.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Lb.	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	
East of Main Range	121	1,173	...	6,169	508	1,120	60	6,279	230	7	20	31	
West of Main Range	20	50	1	
Northern—	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Quarts.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Bushels.	Quarts.	Bushels.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Tons.	Cwt.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Bushels.	Lb.	Lb.	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	
East of Main Range	5,050	1,010	1,090	28,259	Nil	312,437	114	42,560	500	...	7,776	197	3	51	74	16	4	30	6,720	
West of Main Range	1,650	8,320	5,620	1,180	1,875	448	4	4,009	78	...	32	70	Nil		
Total Produce	43,401	2,570	32	5,050	1,493	1,936	48,630	4,090	47,252	Nil	358,315	13,286	60	21,660	44,775	47,488	1,672	8,288	1,192	44,142	732	81,420	3,156	3,974	51,862	3	2,284	1,408	4,501	335	3,720	843	51,347	800	224	16	12	150	6,720	6,360	114	172	444		

* Sold to Perfumers.

SUGAR RETURNS, 1897.

TABLE XV.

District.	Area for Plants.	Area Newly Planted, and Stand Over.	Area Crushed for Sugar.	Total Area for Sugar.	Weight of Cane.	Sugar.	Molasses.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Gallons.
<i>Southern.</i>							
Bundaberg and Gin Gin ...	316	6,850	16,139	23,305	140,789	16,999	377,720
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	137	4,180	10,936	15,253	144,903	13,867	577,750
Logan ...	21	557	1,007	1,585	9,208	765	35,880
Marburg ...	19	311	610	940	3,615	300	12,000
Maroochy and Gympie ...	22	347	544	913	9,610	963	2,000
Nerang ...	9	245	761	1,015	8,745	812	16,200
Total Southern ...	524	12,490	29,997	43,011	316,870	33,706	1,021,550
<i>Central.</i>							
Rockhampton ...	13	479	700	1,192	7,232	865	30,000
<i>Northern.</i>							
Ayr ...	120	1,986	4,404	6,510	73,307	8,236	37,920
Bowen ...	28	492	582	1,102	10,918	1,350	...
Cairns and Douglas ...	104	3,415	3,230	6,749	36,420	6,341	124,000
Ingham and Mourilyan ...	207	2,894	9,725	12,826	194,504	24,874	698,000
Mackay ...	787	9,670	16,794	27,251	165,564	22,604	452,550
Total Northern ...	1,246	18,457	34,735	54,438	480,713	63,405	1,312,470
Total Colony ...	1,783	31,426	65,432	98,641	804,815	97,916	2,364,020

N.B.—The molasses shown above is far short of the quantity produced, but may be taken as the quantity conserved and utilised. Many mills allow this product to run to waste.

Price, 1s. 4d.]

By Authority: EDMUND GREGORY, Government Printer, William street, Brisbane.

STATE RETURNS FOR

1911

NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	SEX	RELATION	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	INCOME	PROPERTY	DEBTS	NET WORTH
John Doe	123 Main St.	35	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,200	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
Jane Doe	123 Main St.	32	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$500	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
John Smith	456 Oak St.	40	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,500	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Smith	456 Oak St.	38	F	Wife	College	Teacher	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Brown	789 Pine St.	50	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$2,000	\$15,000	\$4,000	\$11,000
Jane Brown	789 Pine St.	48	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$1,000	\$15,000	\$4,000	\$11,000
John White	101 Cedar St.	25	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane White	101 Cedar St.	22	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Black	202 Elm St.	60	M	Head	High School	Retired	\$1,000	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Jane Black	202 Elm St.	58	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$500	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
John Green	303 Maple St.	30	M	Head	College	Lawyer	\$2,500	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Jane Green	303 Maple St.	28	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$1,200	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
John Gray	404 Birch St.	45	M	Head	High School	Doctor	\$3,000	\$25,000	\$6,000	\$19,000
Jane Gray	404 Birch St.	42	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$1,500	\$25,000	\$6,000	\$19,000
John Yellow	505 Spruce St.	55	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$2,200	\$18,000	\$4,500	\$13,500
Jane Yellow	505 Spruce St.	52	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$1,100	\$18,000	\$4,500	\$13,500
John Purple	606 Willow St.	38	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,300	\$6,000	\$2,200	\$3,800
Jane Purple	606 Willow St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$600	\$6,000	\$2,200	\$3,800
John Blue	707 Ash St.	48	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Blue	707 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	College	Teacher	\$1,100	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Red	808 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,900	\$14,000	\$3,800	\$10,200
Jane Red	808 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$900	\$14,000	\$3,800	\$10,200
John Pink	909 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,700	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Pink	909 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Brown	1010 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Brown	1010 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Green	1111 Elm St.	48	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Green	1111 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	College	Teacher	\$1,200	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Yellow	1212 Maple St.	58	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$2,100	\$17,000	\$4,200	\$12,800
Jane Yellow	1212 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$1,000	\$17,000	\$4,200	\$12,800
John Purple	1313 Birch St.	38	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Purple	1313 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Blue	1414 Ash St.	48	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Blue	1414 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Red	1515 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,900	\$13,000	\$3,800	\$9,200
Jane Red	1515 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	College	Teacher	\$1,300	\$13,000	\$3,800	\$9,200
John Pink	1616 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,600	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Pink	1616 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Brown	1717 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,700	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Brown	1717 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Green	1818 Elm St.	48	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Green	1818 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Yellow	1919 Maple St.	58	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,800	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Yellow	1919 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	College	Teacher	\$1,200	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Purple	2020 Birch St.	38	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,500	\$9,000	\$2,500	\$6,500
Jane Purple	2020 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$9,000	\$2,500	\$6,500
John Blue	2121 Ash St.	48	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Blue	2121 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$950	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Red	2222 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,600	\$8,000	\$2,600	\$5,400
Jane Red	2222 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$8,000	\$2,600	\$5,400
John Pink	2323 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Pink	2323 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Brown	2424 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Brown	2424 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Green	2525 Elm St.	48	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Green	2525 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Yellow	2626 Maple St.	58	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Yellow	2626 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Purple	2727 Birch St.	38	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Purple	2727 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Blue	2828 Ash St.	48	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Blue	2828 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Red	2929 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Red	2929 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$950	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Pink	3030 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Pink	3030 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Brown	3131 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Brown	3131 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Green	3232 Elm St.	48	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Green	3232 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Yellow	3333 Maple St.	58	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Yellow	3333 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Purple	3434 Birch St.	38	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Purple	3434 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Blue	3535 Ash St.	48	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Blue	3535 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Red	3636 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Red	3636 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Pink	3737 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Pink	3737 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$950	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Brown	3838 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Brown	3838 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Green	3939 Elm St.	48	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Green	3939 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Yellow	4040 Maple St.	58	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Yellow	4040 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Purple	4141 Birch St.	38	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Purple	4141 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Blue	4242 Ash St.	48	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Blue	4242 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Red	4343 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Red	4343 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Pink	4444 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Pink	4444 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Brown	4545 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Brown	4545 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$950	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Green	4646 Elm St.	48	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Green	4646 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Yellow	4747 Maple St.	58	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Yellow	4747 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Purple	4848 Birch St.	38	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Purple	4848 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Blue	4949 Ash St.	48	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Blue	4949 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Red	5050 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Red	5050 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Pink	5151 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Pink	5151 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Brown	5252 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Brown	5252 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Green	5353 Elm St.	48	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Green	5353 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$950	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
John Yellow	5454 Maple St.	58	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Yellow	5454 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Purple	5555 Birch St.	38	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Purple	5555 Birch St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Blue	5656 Ash St.	48	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Jane Blue	5656 Ash St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$750	\$8,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
John Red	5757 Hickory St.	58	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,800	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
Jane Red	5757 Hickory St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$900	\$11,000	\$3,200	\$7,800
John Pink	5858 Poplar St.	28	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
Jane Pink	5858 Poplar St.	25	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$700	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$4,600
John Brown	5959 Cedar St.	38	M	Head	College	Teacher	\$1,700	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Jane Brown	5959 Cedar St.	35	F	Wife	College	Homemaker	\$850	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
John Green	6060 Elm St.	48	M	Head	High School	Merchant	\$1,600	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
Jane Green	6060 Elm St.	45	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$800	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,200
John Yellow	6161 Maple St.	58	M	Head	College	Engineer	\$1,900	\$12,000	\$3,400	\$8,600
Jane Yellow	6161 Maple St.	55	F	Wife	College	Homemaker				